



The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma

Good News

March 2024

Printed Color Copy: \$2.00 Donation

United Methodist
Church of Lake
Ronkonkoma

792 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Grove, NY 11755

631-588-5856

www.umclr.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Nursery School
631-467-9601

Thrift Shop
631-981-9749

Staff

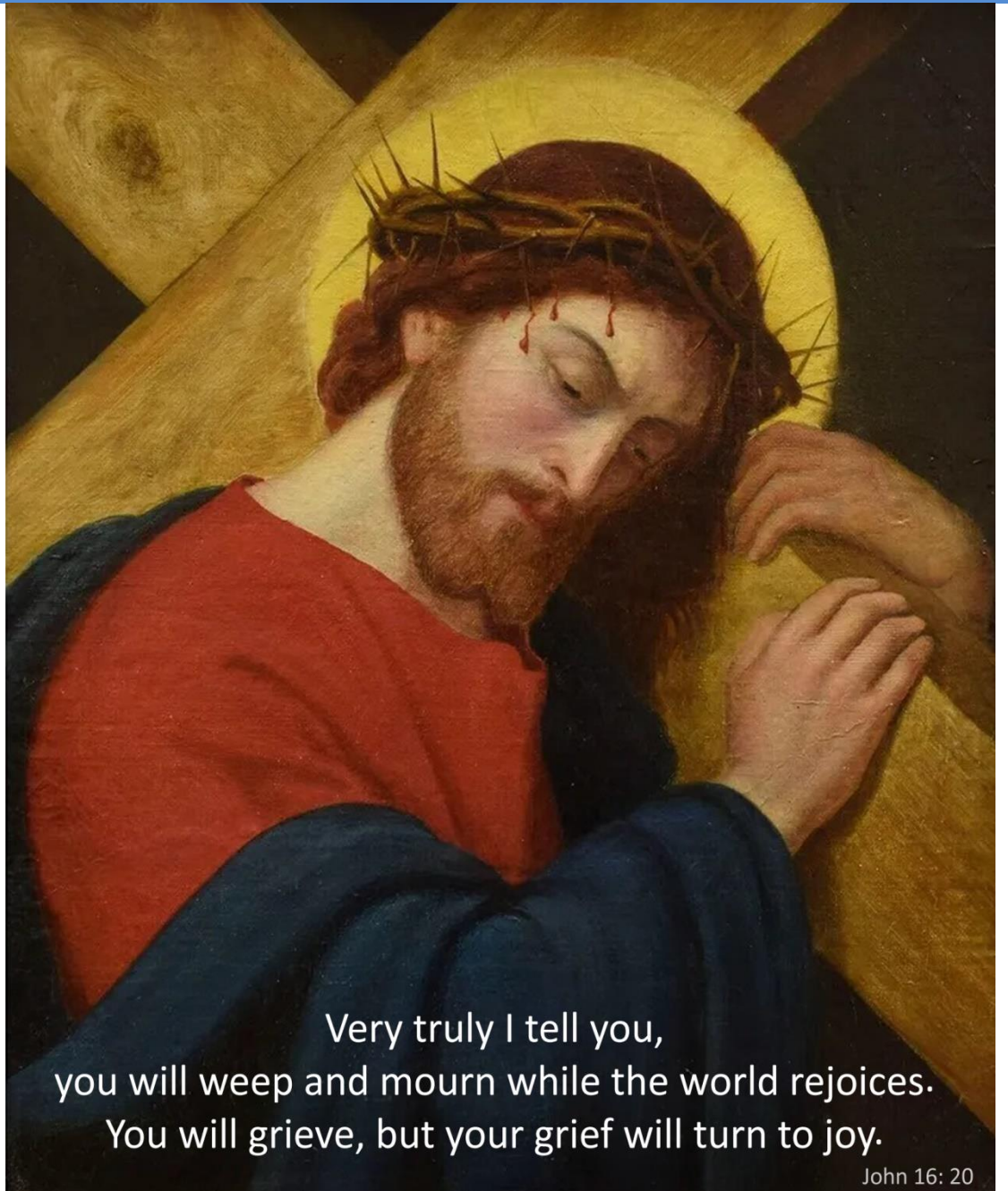
Rev. Karen A. Burger,
Pastor

Filomena Thomas,
Nursery School Director

Abby Preziosi,
Administrative
Assistant

Dr. Rex Enderlin,
Choir Director

Heather Edwards-
Wilson,
Youth Choir Director &
Organist



Very truly I tell you,
you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices.
You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

John 16: 20



VISION STATEMENT OF THE NY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The New York Annual Conference through the grace of God embodies the beloved community of hope, building up a healthy body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We strive to share God's love by creating safe places where all are accepted and welcomed, connecting the needs of people to the presence of God, and transforming the world through Christ.

VISION STATEMENT OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LAKE RONKONKOMA

We are the church at Five Corners spreading the "Light of Christ" from ourselves to the community and the world.

Dear Members and Friends of UMC of Lake Ronkonkoma,

Easter comes early this year! This means that if you want to benefit from the time of spiritual preparation known as Lent, which began in February, you will want to be sure to be in church each Sunday in March. During this time, we take a look at the events leading up to Holy Week and Easter. We cannot really appreciate the joy of Easter without taking the full journey.

So I invite you to be faithful in worship and prayer during this time. I also invite you to come to the Thursday evening services hosted by the churches of our Mid-Island Cooperative Parish (the connectional United Methodist ministry group we are a part of). We will be hosting on Thursday, March 7th, and Lay Servant Marilyn Becht will be bringing the message. Come out and support Marilyn and enjoy fellowship with other neighboring United Methodists. The full schedule is posted in Hertlin Hall and in this newsletter. I hope to see many of you at some of the other churches too!

March is a transitional month. It is a month when we begin the transition from winter to Spring. Transitions are best done intentionally and with hope and faith. We often do Spring cleaning in anticipation of the lighter days. We get outside more. We set new goals. What direction are you moving in as we move toward Easter and Spring? What is important to you?

I hope that taking part in the worship and ministries of this church are on your priority list. Thank you for all who serve so faithfully together!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Karen Burger



Lections

February 4
5th Sunday after the
Epiphany

Isa 40:21-31
Ps 147:1-11 (UMH 859)
1 Cor 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 4
Transfiguration
Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12
Ps 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
2 Cor 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18
1st Sunday in Lent

Gen 9:8-17
Ps 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
1 Pet 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 25
2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 17:1-7, 15-16
Ps 22:23-31 (UMH 752)
Rom 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38



Easter Flower Order Form

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

In Memory of _____ from _____

In Memory of _____ from _____

In Honor of _____ from _____

In Honor of _____ from _____

Offering Envelope # _____

Easter Plants _____ at \$12.00 each = \$ _____

Donation to Flower Fund \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

**Please make checks payable to: United Methodist Church
(On memo line, put flower fund)**

Send to the church office by Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

**If you have any questions, please call the church office at
631) 588-5856**



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Cooperative Parish Lenten



Refreshment & Service Schedule

Thursday

February 22, 2024

Christ Church: Port Jefferson

545 Old Town Rd, Port Jeff. Station, NY 11776

February 29, 2024

Setauket UMC

160 Main St, Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733

March 7, 2024

UMC Of Lake Ronkonkoma

792 Hawkins Ave, Lake Grove, NY 11755

Wednesday

March 13, 2024

Saint James UMC

532 Moriches Rd, St James, NY 11780

Thursday

March 21, 2024

North Shore UMC: Wading River

260 Route 25A, Wading River, NY 11792

6:00 PM Fellowship & Refreshments

7:00 PM Service

Ongoing Missions:

The Food Pantry is open on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month (except holidays) from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Support Groups:

Narcotics Anonymous
Mondays - 7:00 pm
Thursdays - 7:30 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tuesdays - 6:30 &
8:30 p.m.
Fridays - 8:00 p.m.

Please call our church office at 631-588-5856 for further information.



Martha's Place
Thrift Shop

631-981-9749

Hours:

Mondays
10 am - 2 pm

Tuesdays
10 am - 2 pm

Fridays
10 am - 2 pm

Saturdays
10 am - 2 pm



Martha's Place Thrift Shop



March at Martha's

Valentine's Day is over and now we are ready for St. Patrick's Day and Easter!! We have plenty of St. Pat's items and tee shirts to choose from. We also have an amazing assortment of Easter merchandise, jewelry, knick-knacks and kitchen ware. We are also extremely busy at the Thrift Shop hanging an excellent assortment of spring clothing for purchase. Come on in to check your Thrift Shop out!! We are open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are truly blessed by the customers who keep coming back to shop here. Please remember that all the money collected goes to support our Church! We are still in need of one or two fill-in volunteers so, if you have the time, we can always use your help. Thank you for your donations! Spring is around the corner, and I cannot wait!

In God's service, Marilee Drisgula and all volunteers



Martha's Place Thrift Shop

Winter & Spring Apparel

Housewares - Jewelry - Keepsakes

Saint Patrick's Day Merchandise

Easter Merchandise

Open Monday-Tuesday-Friday-Saturday

10AM-2PM



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These names are offered each month. It is an opportunity to extend to our friends and loved ones the love of Christ on these special days, and to express our thanks for the gift of their presence in our midst.

If you would like to be on our birthday list, please call the church office at (631) 588-5856 and we will gladly add your name.

- 1 Michael Zukowski
- 4 Charles Harrison
- 9 Leslie Ann Alessi
- 11 Jenny Millard
- 13 Scarlett Cartier
- 13 Carl Wright
- 15 Shannon Neenan
- 22 Jilliane Duong
- 22 James Czerw
- 23 Chris Muscolo
- 26 Ryan Doukas
- 26 Jennifer Campbell



Thank you for the Memorial Donations

For: Jim Baumann From: Cathy & Dave Meyers
For: Bruce Smith From: Marilyn & Ray Becht
For: Ron Drisgula From: Richard Wahl

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Little Angels Music Class



Sing! Dance!
Pray! Play!



Friday, March 8, 2024
6:15 PM



Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Saturday
March 16, 2024
5:00 PM

Adults & Youth	\$20.00
Children under 12	\$17.00
Children under 5	Free

Tickets available or call (631) 588-5856

The United Methodist Church
of Lake Ronkonkoma at "5 Corners"
792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove



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Help share Jesus with local needy kids!

HOW TO MAKE A BIBLE BASKET:

Fill a basket with wrapped candy, toys, Bible coloring books, crayons, a Children's Bible- anything that kids will enjoy & tells them the Good News that Jesus loves them.

"Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Baskets Needed by March 17th

Lighthouse Mission

1543 Montauk Hwy. Bellport, NY 11713
www.LighthouseMission.com
631.758.7584





The UMM had their first breakfast of the year in January and are looking forward to our Quinipet retreat the first weekend in March

God Bless,
Dennis Subbiondo
George Doukas

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Please notify the church office of any telephone number, address or email address changes so that we may update our files.

E D U C A T I O N

Greetings from the Education Work Area,

We have much to be grateful for as we observe Lent and look forward to the celebration of Easter at the end of the month.

Our Sunday school children will be learning the meaning of the season through their activities in class. They will have their traditional Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday.

We have once again added to our Confirmation class and now have 9 candidates for membership in May 2025. We welcome Anne and Abernaty Philogene. Confirmation class instruction has been moved to Sunday mornings at 9:30. We are grateful to our teachers for being flexible to the new schedule. We are thankful that Julia Polsunas has joined our team with Allyssa Schoenemann in the secondary Sunday school room.

Our youth group has participated in activities sponsored by the churches in our Cooperative Parish . We are hoping that many of them will participate in the district retreat at Quinipet on April 12-15.

Our missions committee invites all families to participate in our Lighthouse Easter basket project. Easter baskets and info can be found in Hertlin hall. Please consider picking one up and working with your children to fill it.

There will be a special breakfast with the Easter bunny on March 23 at 9:30 followed by an Easter fair featuring Easter merchandise from 9-12 on Saturday and Sunday.

We look forward to seeing you as we participate together during this season of hope, faith and love. Easter blessings to all!

Sue Preddice
Education Chair

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United
Women
in Faith

Monday

March 11, 2024

7:00 PM

Special Guest Speaker
Rev. Penny Gadzini

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

This is the day the Lord hath made. PS 118:24

Our next meeting is MONDAY, MARCH 11 @ 7 PM at the church.
Rev. Penny Gadzini will lead our program.

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
PS 119:105**

APRIL 26 27 28 CAMP QUINIPET RETREAT SHELTER ISLAND

Taste and see that the Lord is good. PS 34:8

May 20 **TESSA'S TEA PARTY** 7 PM at the church

**All things work together for good to them that love God.
Romans 8:28**

June planning meeting to be determined soon....

July meet every Sunday morning at church to provide coffee hour refreshments for our congregation.

Thank you

Barb C Tessa T Sue S - retreat Ellie S Stacey T

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Cooperative Parish
Lenten
Hospitality & Worship Service
at
The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma



**Thursday
March 7, 2024**

Fellowship & Refreshments
6:00 PM

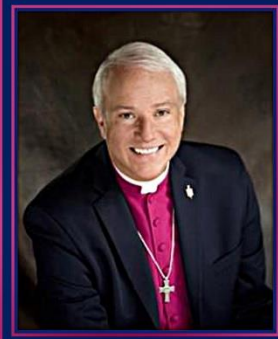

Service & Special Music Program
7:00 PM

Please join UMCLR as we welcome
our brothers and sisters from other
Churches in our Cooperative Parish



News from the Long Island East District

 The Long Island East District Meeting 

6:30 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Talk by
Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

with Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
will take place
THURSDAY, MARCH 14th, 2024,
Bible Korean UMC,
1201 Carll's Straight Path, Dix Hills NY 11746

R N N O T E S



SPRING INTO ACTION



Many folks started 2024 with great exercise routines; they walked, did aerobics, biked and swam. Then there were the rest of us. We all thought of increasing our physical movement but always found a reason to postpone.

Spring and Easter are both in March this year so, not only the budding of flowers and trees, but the Resurrection of Jesus Christ should inspire us to get up and move more.

- * The benefits of regular exercise include:
- * Improved brain health
- * Helping to manage weight
- * It reduces the risk of disease
- * Strengthens our bones and muscles
- * Improves our ability to do everyday activities
- * Exercise improves our heart
- * It improves circulation
- * Exercise burns fat
- * Exercise improves our mood
- * It reduces inflammation
- * It lowers blood sugar

So - what are good exercises?

- * Walking
- * Strength training
- * Yoga
- * Swimming
- * Biking

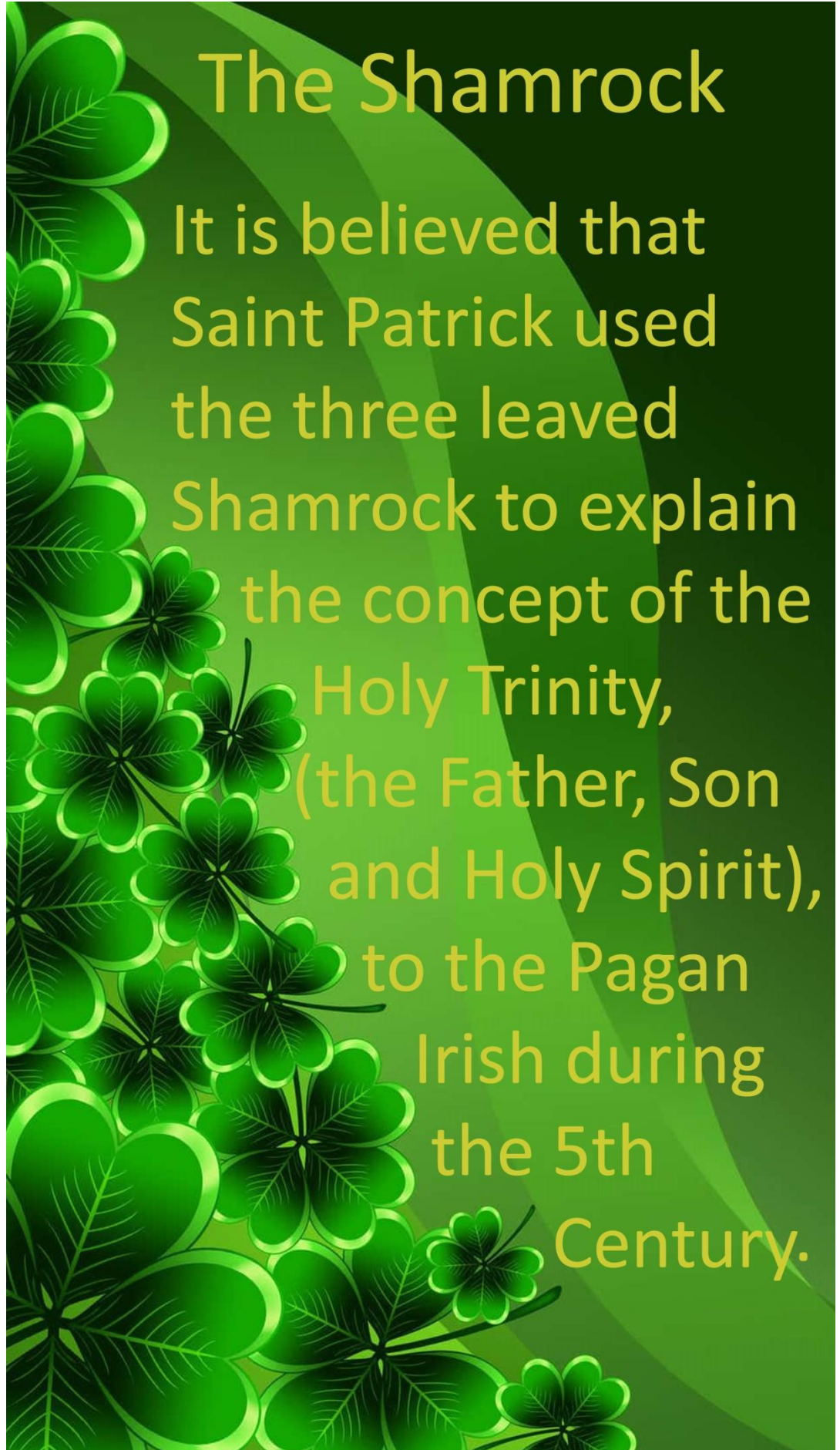
Pick one and start. Set achievable goals. Remember those who love you will be smiling, especially Jesus Christ.

Helen Morley

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The Shamrock

It is believed that Saint Patrick used the three leaved Shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity, (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit), to the Pagan Irish during the 5th Century.






Breakfast with the Bunny

Saturday March 23, 2024
9:30 AM

Pancakes - Bacon
Orange Juice - Apple Juice
Coffee (For the young at heart)

\$10.00 Per Person

The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma
For more information call: (631) 588-5856

Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Guests: Children: _____ Adults: _____

\$10.00 Per Person

CHECKS MADE OUT TO UMCLR ATTN: BUNNY BREAKFAST & CASH ACCEPTED

Please mail completed form with your payment to:
UMCLR Attn. Breakfast with the Bunny 792 Hawkins Ave. Lake Grove, NY 11755

Or Email to: abby@umclr.com Attn. Breakfast with the Bunny

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Easter Fair

Saturday + Sunday

March 23 & 24, 2024

9am - 12pm

Easter Merchandise

Hertlin Hall
United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma



INTERNATIONAL DINNER FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF LAKE RONKONKOMA

792 HAWKINS AVENUE
LAKE GROVE, NEW YORK 11755

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF INTERNATIONAL DELIGHTS

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE UMCLR AND MISSIONS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR!
\$22.00 FOR ADULTS - \$10.00 AGES 5-14 - UNDER 5 FREE

Includes: Dinner + Dessert + Beverage

For further information please call the Church Office at (631) 588-5856

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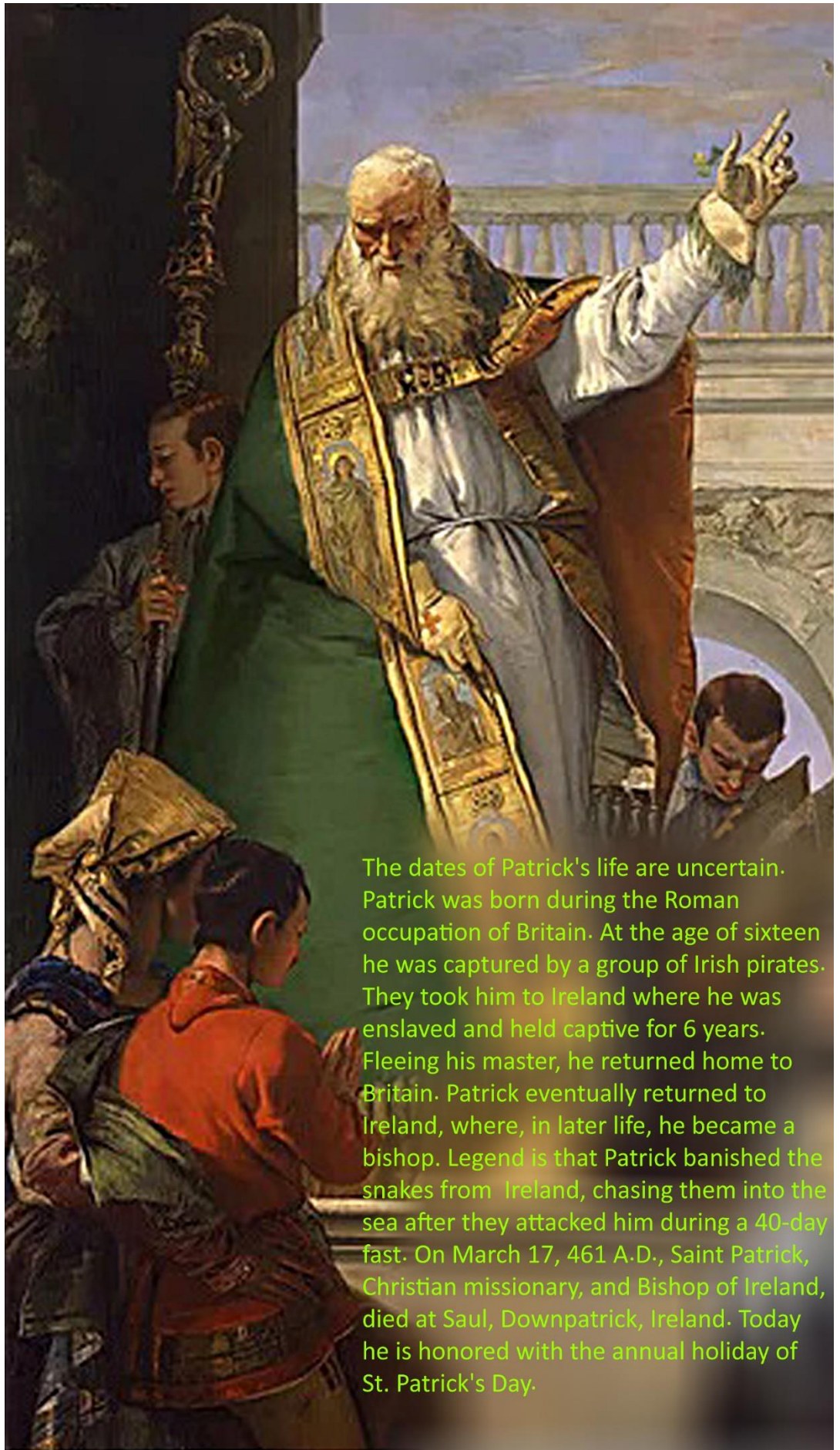
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Holy Week Quiz

- 1. What do palm branches symbolize on Palm Sunday?**
 - a. They symbolized victory in the Roman Empire
 - b. Palm is the Latin word for 'return'
 - c. Hearts of palm were considered 'kingly food'
 - d. All of the above
- 2. What was Judas paid for identifying Jesus to the Roman soldier?**
 - a. 20 pieces of gold
 - b. 20 pieces of silver
 - c. 30 pieces of gold
- 3. The Upper Room Chapel, Nashville displays a carved wooden representation of:**
 - a. The Nativity Scene
 - b. The Last Supper
 - c. Christ's Crucifixion
 - d. Christ's Resurrection
- 4. Which was not said by Jesus the night before he died?**
 - a. "All those who use the sword will die by the sword."
 - b. "Physician, heal thyself."
 - c. "The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak."
 - d. "Friend, do what you came to do."
- 5. What are the Stations of the Cross?**
 - a. Place in Jerusalem where prisoners were sentenced
 - b. Moments in Jesus' journey from his trial to the tomb
 - c. Officially approved places for crosses in churches
- 6. What does a Tenebrae service consist of?**
 - a. A drama about the last seven words of Jesus
 - b. Extinguishing of candles
 - c. A reenactment of the Last Supper
 - d. The receiving of ashes
- 7. What does INRI mean on a crucifix?**
 - a. Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Rome
 - b. Nazareth, Kingdom of Jerusalem
 - c. Sign of the Cross
 - d. Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews
- 8. Why are eggs associated with Easter?**
 - a. They symbolize new life
 - b. They have a shell around the body inside, like the tomb of Jesus
 - c. They can be dyed pretty colors to represent the joy of Easter.
 - d. All of the above
- 9. Which of these Easter hymns did Charles Wesley write?**
 - a. "Because He Lives"
 - b. "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"
 - c. "Lift High the Cross"
 - d. "Sing with All the Saints in Glory"
- 10. Why do some churches hold Easter sunrise services?**
 - a. Jesus is sometimes called the light of the world.
 - b. The women are said to have come to the tomb early in the morning.
 - c. Easter prayer vigils often ended as the sun rose.
 - d. All of the above

S A I N T P A T R I C K



The dates of Patrick's life are uncertain. Patrick was born during the Roman occupation of Britain. At the age of sixteen he was captured by a group of Irish pirates. They took him to Ireland where he was enslaved and held captive for 6 years. Fleeing his master, he returned home to Britain. Patrick eventually returned to Ireland, where, in later life, he became a bishop. Legend is that Patrick banished the snakes from Ireland, chasing them into the sea after they attacked him during a 40-day fast. On March 17, 461 A.D., Saint Patrick, Christian missionary, and Bishop of Ireland, died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland. Today he is honored with the annual holiday of St. Patrick's Day.

H I S T O R Y

History Comes Alive At The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma



Reverend Henry S. Still came to us from the Asbury Methodist Church in Forestville Connecticut where he served for 11 years.

In 1921 during Rev. Still's tenure our church had 72 members. Then, as now the congregation came from many of the communities that surround Lake Ronkonkoma. Reverend Still reported, "our people are so scattered that I

cannot report a large number of pastoral visits." Reverend Still added, "there is a deep spiritual influence over this church. I expect to report some important accessions before Christmas. I did a little better than leave a sick bed when I came here last Easter Sunday, but the Lord has helped me. My health has been steadily improving and while this report seems meager, I have gone to the limit of my strength. The Official Board has kindly and cordially invited me to remain another year, and I wish if I may to spend another year with effort to do better work for the Master's Cause."

On August 2, 1921, the Official Board unanimously invited Pastor Still to return for another year, and to pay him a salary of \$500.00.

The congregation was concerned when Reverend Still went to Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn for surgery in March 1923, and were saddened when he passed away in April.

Church Leaders Warren Ferry



I was Born in Illinois, the fourth of eight children of Harrison and Faye Ferry. Our family lived in several communities and eventually settled in Gillespie. We attended the Gillespie UMC. My mother led our family to church every Sunday and eventually became Sunday school superintendent. I was confirmed there, was a member of MYF and attended many events including roller skating parties and other church functions for youth.

After high school I enlisted in the US Air Force. Upon completion of training was assigned to the Air Defense Command at 773rd Radar Squadron in Montauk, NY. After the Air Force I worked as a technical representative and engineer for Grumman in Bethpage and later worked for Telephonics Corporation and retired as Director of Engineering in January 2010.

In 1965 I married Carolyn Baase and we have two daughters Tracy and Wendy and two grandchildren Briana and Harrison.

The Ferry family moved to Ronkonkoma and began attending the Lake Ronkonkoma UMC in the early 70's. Tracy and Wendy regularly attended Sunday school, were in the Chapel and Wesley choirs and made their confirmation with Rev. Stu Baker.

I have been an active member of the UMM since the early 1980's. The UMM are proud sponsors of the "Sauerbraten Dinner" which has become a major fund raiser for the church. I have been a chef along with Charlie Bornschein and Dennis Subbiondo who today lead the effort to coordinate and cook the dinner.

I have been a part of various church committees. As Chair of the trustees along with Eileen Torraca, we led the efforts to put in the parking lot in front of the church, installed siding on the sanctuary and Parish Hall, and had the brick work on Baker Hall painted white. I have also been Chair of the Pastor and Parish Relations Committee, Church Council and Stewardship.

In 2006 and 2008 Keith Bowes and I volunteered to go to Biloxi Ms. to help with recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina. In 2013 I was part of the NYAC Sandy long term recovery team as a response coordinator and became the UMC representative on the LI Health and Welfare Council Sandy long term recovery committee.

I have always sought to come closer to Christ because through Christ we are nourished to become the persons we are today. I believe that if I am going to call myself a Christian, I need to be more committed to my actions and giving so that although I am not always successful, my hope is to be.

'Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the lord your God which He has given you.' Deuteronomy 16:17

Giving is an act of worship, and so every worshipper must be one of God's givers, whether rich or poor. The mites God values as much as the millions. — A.T. Pierson

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GAME NIGHT

Friday March 15, 2024
7:00 PM

Enjoy a game of your choice or play one of ours.
Come, laugh, and have fun.



Join us for our next
Book Discussion
Monday,
March 25, 2024
at 2 pm at the Church

We will be discussing
"The Matchmaker's Gift"
by
Lynda Cohen Loigman

The Matchmaker's Gift
LYNDA COHEN LOIGMAN

"Loigman's latest is a gem. A scrappy Jewish teenager newly arrived in 1920s New York struggles to follow her calling as a matchmaker—seventy years later, her cynical divorce-attorney granddaughter realizes she has very inconveniently inherited the family gift for matching soulmates. Both funny and moving, *The Matchmaker's Gift* made me smile from start to finish." —Kate Quinn, New York Times bestselling author

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Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

Sunday March 31, 2024

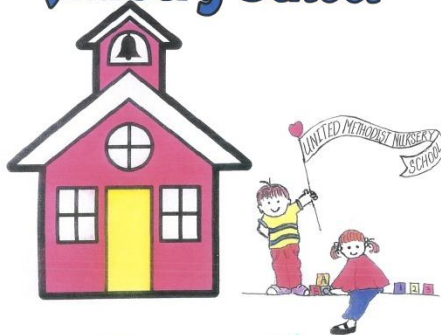
6:30 AM

Lake Ronkonkoma County Park
(Smithtown Blvd & Lake Shore Road)

In the event of inclement weather
Please meet at the Church



United Methodist
Nursery School



Saturday

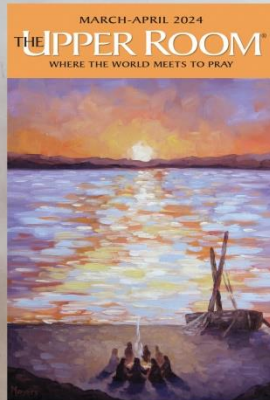
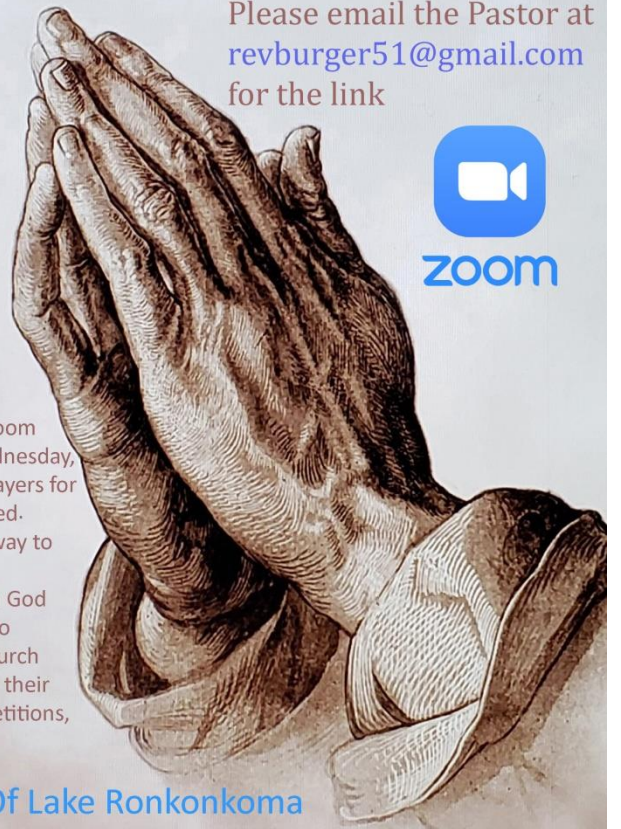
April 13th 10AM - 12:30PM

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Virtual Prayer Meeting

Every
Wednesday
8:00 AM

Please email the Pastor at
revburger51@gmail.com
for the link



Come join us as we discuss the Upper Room reading for that Wednesday, and continue our prayers for those who are in need. This is a wonderful way to focus on your communication with God and become closer to members of your church family, as they share their thoughts, praises, petitions, prayers and faith.

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



Youth Programs Available

Sunday School

Youth Choir

United Methodist Youth

Confirmation Class

For more information on our Youth Programs call:
(631) 588-5856

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Youth in 6th – 12th Grades

Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30

(Twice per month)

Meeting dates:

2024

January 10th and 24th

February 7th and 28th

March 6th and 20th

April 3rd and 17th

May 8th and 22nd

June 5th

Advisors:

Wendy Duffy and Jennie Olivotti

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Spring Festival & Flower Sale

United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

"5 Corners"

792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove, NY

Saturday, May 11, 2024

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

(Rain Date May 18, 2024)

Food - Flowers - Vendors - Fun

For More Information & Flower Order Form Visit

WWW.UMCLR.COM



Tessa's Tea Party

United
Women
In Faith

Monday
May 20, 2024
7PM

Please bring your
own cup!

The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

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Grand Fall Auction

September 14, 2024

12 Noon

Viewing At 11:00 AM

Make An Offer At 9:00 AM

Hundreds of interesting items!

Rain or Shine!

Bring a chair & a sense of adventure

Food & Beverages Available

United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove (At 5 Corners)



SAUERBRATEN DINNER

SPONSORED BY THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

6:00 PM



TICKET PRICES:

Adults & Youth	\$20.00
Children under 12	\$17.00
Children under 5	Free

For Tickets Call The Church Office At: (631) 588-5856

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Christmas Festival & Sale

United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

"5 Corners"

792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove, NY

Friday, November 29, 2024

Saturday, November 30, 2024

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Food - Vendors - Crafts - Fun

For More Information & Vendor Forms, Please Visit

WWW.UACLR.COM



Breakfast With Santa!

Saturday

November 30, 2024

9:30 AM



Pancakes - Bacon
Orange Juice - Apple Juice
Coffee (For the young at heart)



JOHN



20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. 23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. 27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. 30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

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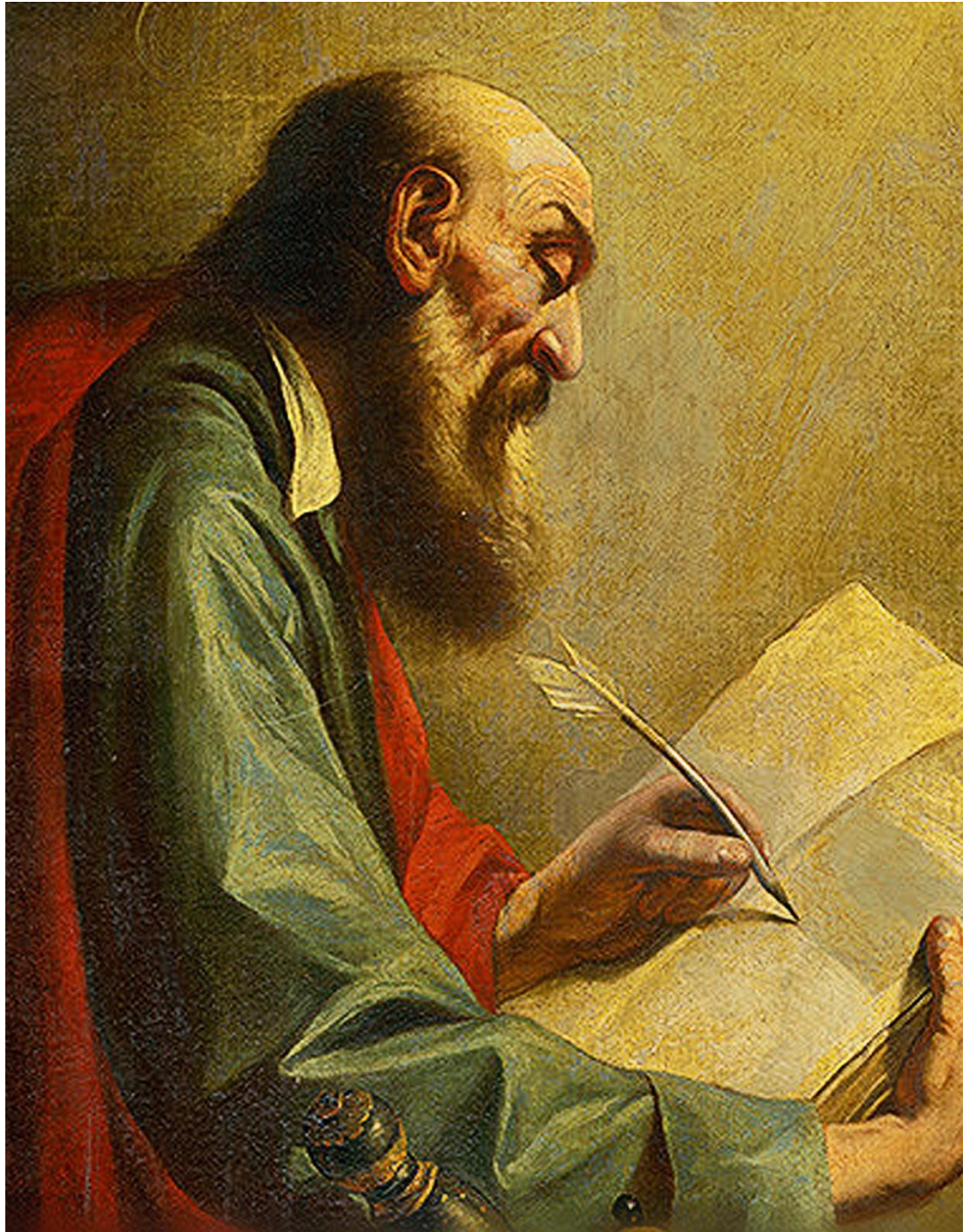
19



1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. 5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. 6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth. 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. 11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. 14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalms 19: 1-14

1 C O R I N T H I A N S



18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

E P H E S I A N S



1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2: 1-10

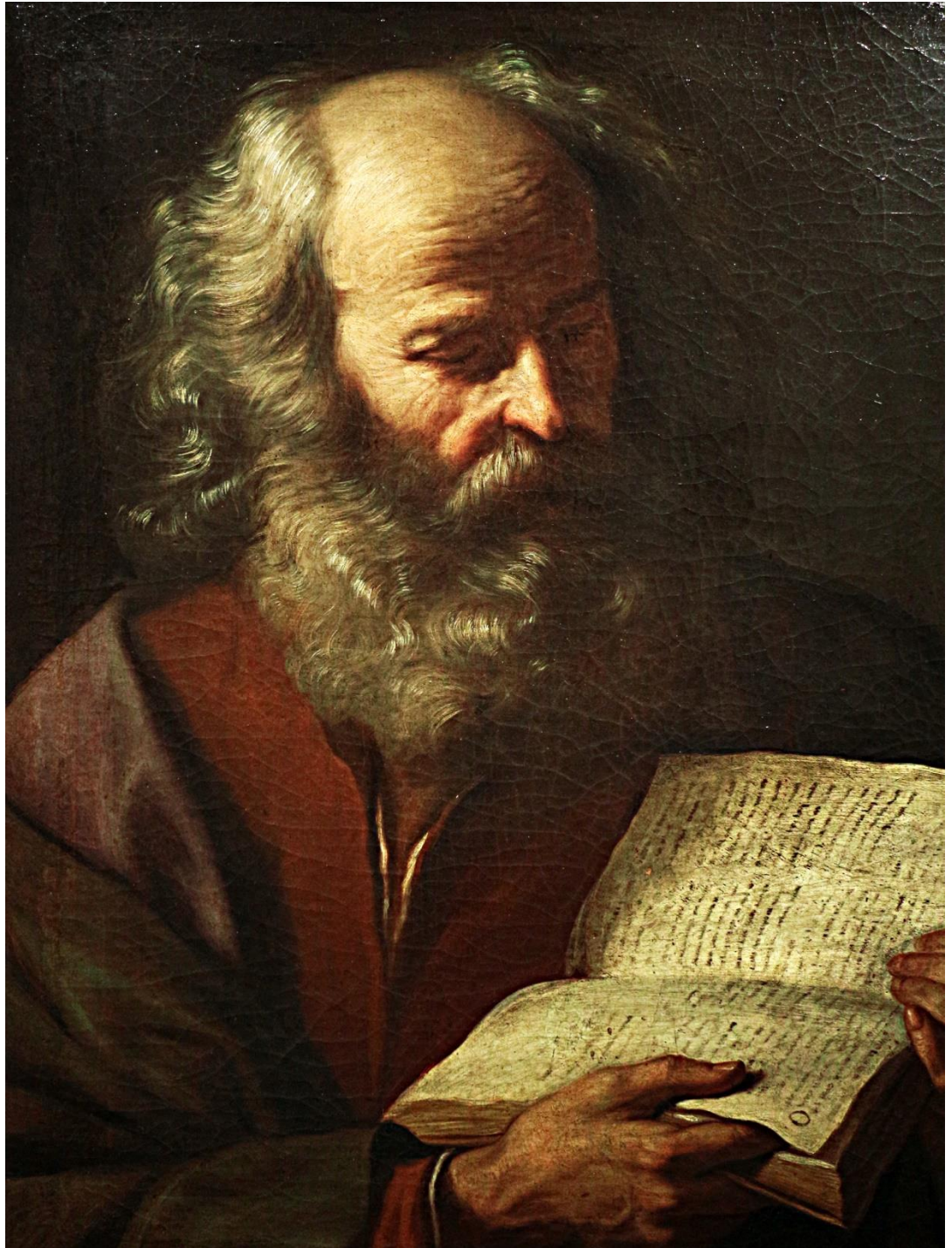
JOHN



14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3: 14-21

J E R E M I A H



31 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them" declares the Lord. 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

E X O D U S



1 And God spoke all these words:

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. 8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. 12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. 13 "You shall not murder. 14 "You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Exodus 20: 1-17

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1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

2 Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

19 Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

23 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

25 Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!

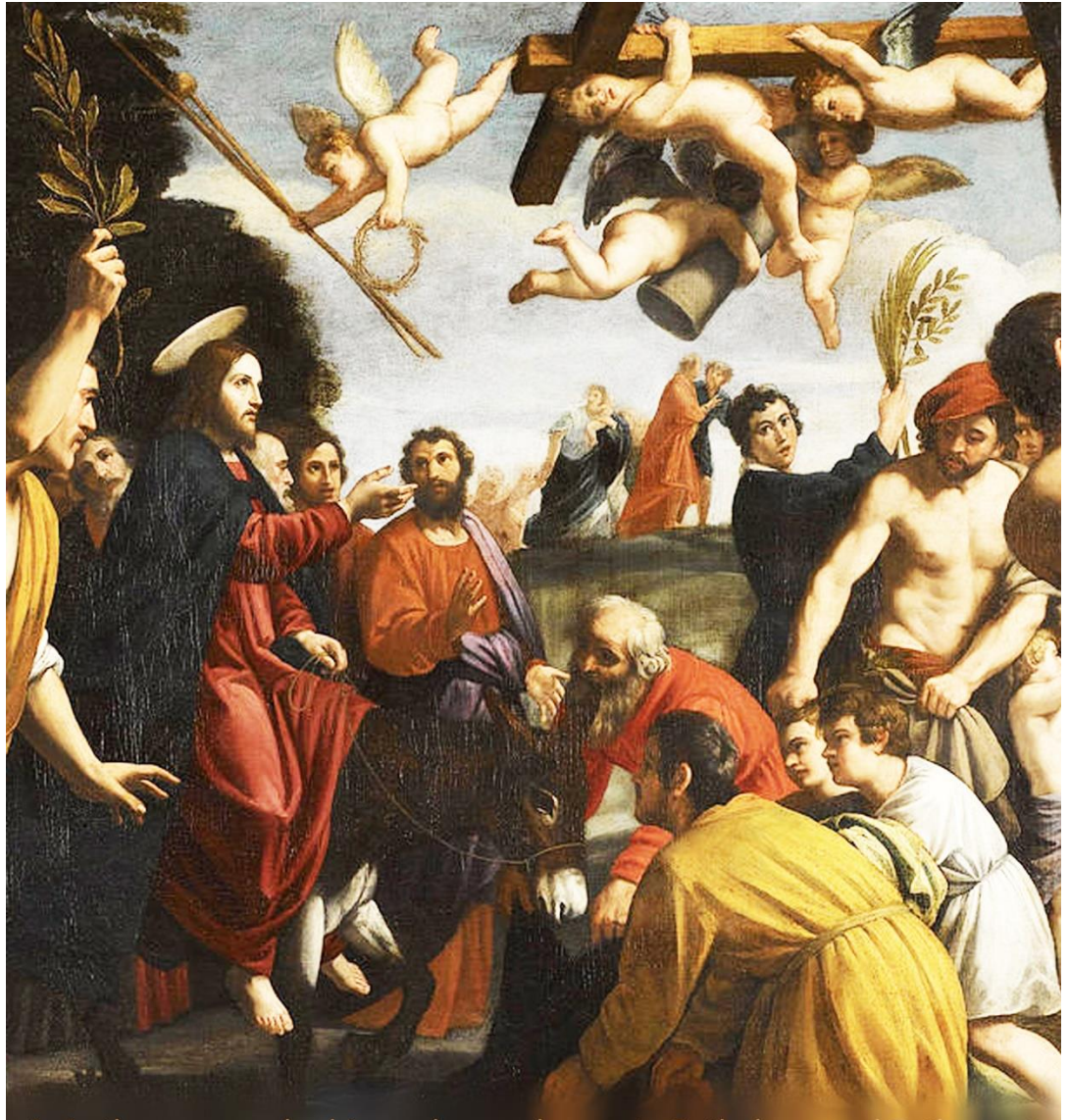
26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

27 The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

M A R K



1. As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" 4 They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, 5 some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. 7 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" 10 "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" 11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Mark 11: 1-11

EXODUS



1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover. 12 “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. 14 “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.

Exodus 12: 1-14

J O H N



1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

John 13: 1-17

M A R K



1 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. 2 “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. 3 The chief priests accused him of many things. 4 So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” 5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. 6 Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. 7 A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. 8 The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. 9 “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. 12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. 13 “Crucify him!” they shouted. 14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” 15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Mark 15: 1-15

M A R K



27 They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. 29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Mark 15: 27-32

M A R K



33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”

(which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.” 36 Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said. 37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. 38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” 40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. 41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

Mark 15: 33-41

M A R K



42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached,
43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.
44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died.
45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.
46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.
47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

Mark 15: 42-47

A C T S



34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. 39 "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. 41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Acts 10: 34-43

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1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb

3 and they asked each other,

"Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.

See the place where they laid him.

7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter,

'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'

8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Mark 16: 1-8

J O H N W E S L E Y

THE DEATH OF JOHN WESLEY

MARCH 2, 1791



Elizabeth “Betsy” Ritchie’s account of John Wesley’s final hours

“...some of those who were most used to hear our dear Father’s dying voice would be able to interpret his meaning; but though he strove to speak we were still unsuccessful: finding we could not understand what he said, he paused a little, and then with all the remaining strength he had, cried out, ‘The best of all is, God is with us’; and then, as if to assert the faithfulness of our promise-keeping Jehovah and comfort the hearts of his weeping friends, lifting up his dying arm in token of victory and raising his feeble voice with a holy triumph not to be expressed, again repeated the heart-reviving words, ‘The best of all is, God is with us!’”



Elizabeth was born on February 2, 1754, and was the daughter of naval surgeon John Ritchie. As a girl she came under the influence of John Wesley who often stayed at her family’s home. In the 1780’s she accompanied Wesley on some of his journeys and they corresponded on a regular basis. She was living in Wesley’s house during his last days and was present when he died and wrote the account above.

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Happy Birthday Pastor Karen
February 25, 2024



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for
more information
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Palm Sunday



And when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Beth'phage,
to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
"Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

If any one says anything to you, you shall say,
'The Lord has need of them,' and he will send them immediately."

This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying,
"Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble,
and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt,
and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.

Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road,
and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

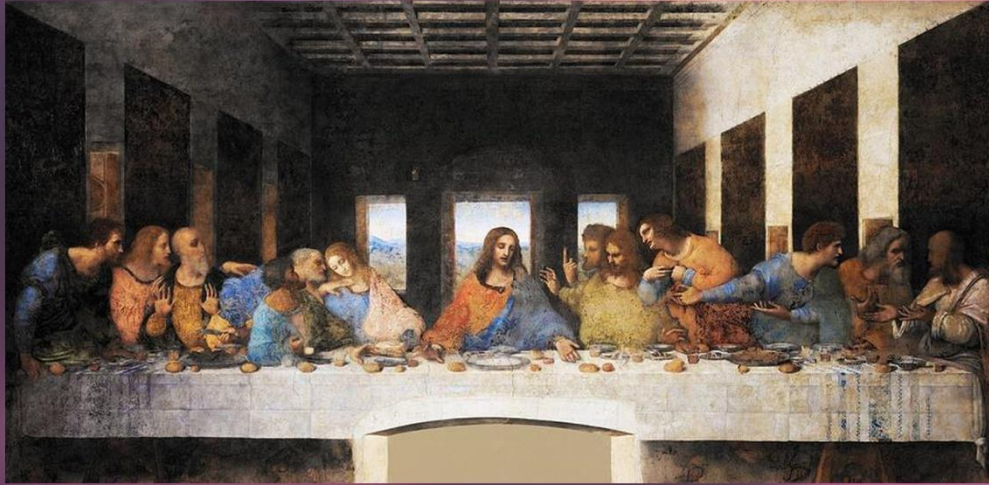
And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying,

"Who is this?" And the crowds said,

"This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee."

Matthew 21: 1-11

Maundy Thursday



And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him.
And he said to them,
“I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer;
for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”
And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said,
“Take this, and divide it among yourselves;
for I tell you that from now on
I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”
And he took bread,
and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying,
“This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
And likewise the cup after supper, saying,
“This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.
But behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.
For the Son of man goes as it has been determined;
but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”
And they began to question one another,
which of them it was that would do this.

Luke 22: 14-23

Good Friday



So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Gol'gotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag'dalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19: 1-30

Easter



Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

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