



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, Issue 4



Latest Update from the Rector



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

On March 16th Good Shepherd suspended all in-person worship services and meetings on our campus with the hope that we could resume in time for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Unfortunately, that is not going to be possible under the current orders from our Bishop, our President, our Governor, and our Mayor.

On March 27th Bishop Reed extended the current suspension of all in-person worship and meetings in our churches through Thursday, April 30th. If the circumstances improve before then, he would be pleased to lift the restrictions earlier. This will postpone our Confirmation date of April 26th. I will let you know more, when we know more.

It is difficult to contemplate not being together to celebrate our most holy days of the Christian year, but I have found that it is in times like these that Christ is even more present than ever. I encourage you to listen to my sermon message online from last Sunday's service.

Our worship is not cancelled; we are just worshipping in a different way. We will continue to record all of our worship services and have them emailed to you directly, as well as posting them to our website at cotgs.org. During Holy Week, we will have the Stations of the Cross available for your daily devotions; as well as, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. For Easter Sunday, we will feature a video of last year's Easter service, with the flowering of the cross and our familiar music with brass timpani. It will be a wonderful reminder of who we are, and what we share together in Christ.

I want to remind you that your church staff and clergy are meeting regularly, and working creatively, to support our community during this challenging time. We are all available to each of you by either email, text, or phone. The phones are being monitored daily at the church office, and we are making check-in calls to our parishioners. This is also an opportunity for us all to check-in with one another and keep each other in prayer. Please let us know your pastoral needs as they arise.

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UPDATE FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

(continued from page 1)

I want to encourage you all to take one day at a time and to lean into your faith in Christ and look for opportunities to be grateful. Perhaps, this will be a spiritually productive time for all of us as we take stock of the things that really matter, our relationships with our families, with one another, and with Jesus.

Be safe, stay well, and keep the faith!

Yours in Christ,
Milton+

Online Resources for You

There are many ways for you to grow in your faith and further your Christian education at this time. God's Word is comforting to all of us, especially in our times of need.

The Story on You Tube

We will continue to read through The Story each week. Our regular Thursday emails from the Church will tell you the chapter will be on for that Sunday. You can go to You Tube and search for The Story by chapter number to view videos.

Right Now Media

Right Now Media is like a Christian Netflix. You will find Bible studies, documentaries, movies, children's programming, Christian education, and so much more. If you have not received an invitation from the Church to join, please email Lesleigh Landreth at LLandreth@cotgs.org and we will get that sent to you. RNM is free to all of our members of Good Shepherd! Visit www.rightnowmedia.org to get a sneak peak of what this online resource has to offer.

Elizabeth Black's Bible Study on The Gospel of Matthew Audio Recordings

Elizabeth Black has made her Bible studies available through an audio recording posted weekly. Each week, an audio recording of her teaching is posted on her website. You can join in by just listening weekly, or participate more fully by purchasing the workbook which is available on Amazon.com. (We will be using the N.T. Wright For Everyone Bible Study Guide for the Gospel of Matthew as our workbook.) Visit www.elizabethheadblack.com to hear audio of her Bible Study.

The Daily Office Lectionary

The Daily Office offers you daily prayers and readings. It provides liturgy for a personal time of morning and evening prayer as found in the Book of Common Prayer. The electronic version is a wonderful tool to have! **Below are four free Daily Office apps that have been recommended:**



Electronic Common Prayer



Daily Lectio



Prayer - Mission St. Clare



My Daily Office

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Holy Week and Easter Online

We realize the disappointment of not being able to gather together for Holy Week and Easter this year. But it is important to remember that Easter is not canceled. We ARE the Church, gathered in person or not and we are worshipping together whether we are in the same building or not. Our worship is not cancelled; we are just worshipping in a different way.

Our clergy and church staff will provide ways for us to worship virtually online. The following videos will be available during Holy Week on our website. We will also email these videos to to you.

- **Palm Sunday:** We will provide a modified Palm Sunday service for you to view online. **We also encourage you to hang a palm branch on your front door to acknowledge the beginning of Holy Week.**



- **Stations of the Cross:** Images of each of the stations will be provided in a video along with the text that goes with each image. You can participate in Stations of the Cross in your home!



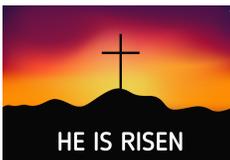
- **Maundy Thursday:** We will have a modified Maundy Thursday service for you to view online.



- **Good Friday:** We will have a modified Good Friday service for you to view online.



- **Easter Sunday:** We will provide a video of last year's Easter service for you to view online. You will see last year's flowering of the cross and the entire service with brass and choir. The Rev. Milton Black will provide an updated message for us to view at the beginning of the video.



Videos will be emailed to our congregation and will also be available on our website at www.cotgs.org.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

April 5

Video will be posted on our website at 7:00 a.m. and will be available to view at your convenience. In acknowledgement of Palm Sunday, hang a palm on your front door.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Video will be posted on our website at 8:00 a.m. Monday, April 6 and will be available to view at your convenience throughout Holy Week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9

Video will be posted on our website at noon on Thursday, April 9th and will be available to view at your convenience.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10

Video will be posted on our website at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, April 10th and will be available to view at your convenience.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12

Video will be posted on our website at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 12th and will be available to view at your convenience.

EASTER LILIES

Even though we will not gather in the church for Easter Sunday, the Easter Lilies that many of you contributed to in memory or thanksgiving for a loved one have already been purchased. We will place them in the Courtyard on Monday, April 13th. **You may come by the church at your leisure to take one home.**

Living the Psalms

Study and Pray the Psalms

Bishop David Reed called us at Diocesan Council in February to study the Psalms in 2020. He could not have chosen a better scripture for our current situation. We are asked to Live the Psalms.

The Diocese of West Texas is offering reflections, study materials, thoughts and suggestions for coming into the presence of God, asking God to bless us, and relying on God. Go to <https://christianformation-dwtx.org/>

When our ancestors in the faith got into trouble they called upon God. Psalms is the only book of the Bible in which God's people speak to God - and they did so honestly and openly and with great faith. Today we find ourselves in the same circumstance: our future is uncertain, our loved ones are suffering, and we are all afraid. Let's use the Psalms to speak to God.

Sunday Night Psalms

Singer songwriter Wendell Kimbrough is hosting a Sunday Night Psalms Concert each Sunday night during our time at home via Livestream. This is a sing-a-long concert. Wendell has reimagined the Psalms for emotionally honest worship. His songs are marked by strong singable melodies, steeped in the sounds of folk, gospel, and soul music. He serves as worship leader at Church of the Apostles in Fairhope, Alabama.

Go to <https://www.wendellk.com/livestream> at 6:00 p.m. each Sunday night to view the Livestream concert.

Confirmation News

Because we will not be gathering in person at church until after April 30th, Confirmation will be postponed. It will happen! But it will be at a later date. All of our current sixth grade confirmation students will be receiving a letter and a packet from our confirmation teachers giving them further information. Someone will be in touch with you through both email and regular mail. Among the information that will be sent to you is how to put together your project board so you can be working on it.

THE STORY

The Story Goes On!

We are continuing with The Story each week. Please refer to your brochure on The Story, or our weekly announcements to follow the chapter for the week. Read the chapter and then watch our weekly Sunday worship video to hear the readings and the sermon pertaining to that chapter.

VISIT THE HOLY LAND IN 2021

Holy Land Trip with COTGS October 29 - November 10, 2021

Journey with us to the Holy Land and experience the deep history and connection with the world that Jesus inhabited. Our guide, Canon Iyad Qumri, has 20 years of experience in historical, biblical, and cultural knowledge.

If you are interested, please contact Susan Linnane or Rev. Milton Black. The deposit is \$500 per person. (The total cost of the trip is not yet been confirmed.) There is limited space, so interested parties will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS GOES ONLINE

"Deeper into The Story" on Zoom! 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays

The Rev. Philip May's Wednesday evening class is now available online. He is facilitating his class through the online meeting site called Zoom. This is a great way to connect with others and dive deeper into The Story. **If you are interested in being added to this online group, contact Fr. Philip at pmay@cotgs.org.**

CHURCH COMMUNITY



YOUTH GROUP

Online Youth Group on Tuesdays and Thursdays!

We currently have opportunities for both middle and high school youth groups to continue to grow in their faith through online discussions and fun.

Middle School Youth (6th - 8th Grades)

Middle School Youth Group will gather on Zoom (online video chat). Our youth minister, Glenn Meschko has sent out invitations through Google Hangouts and text message. If students are not receiving messages they can receive information by joining Google Hangouts at <https://hangouts.google.com/group/UZ5SHFDVoWC8RhWaA>.

Middle School meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

-Tuesdays are trivia game days (Glenn is utilizing Zoom and YouTube for games.)

-Thursdays are faith discussion days. (YouTube video and faith discussion.)

If your middle school student is not receiving Remind texts from Glenn Meschko, email him at gmeschko@cotgs.org.

High School Youth (9th - 12th Grades)

There will be a post on Google Hangouts on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. You will be discussing Lent using a video with discussion questions. **This event can be done at your leisure.** Watch the video and then discuss any time. Go to Google Hangouts to participate at <https://hangouts.google.com/group/75ZRuQm6rEDB2CVs9>.

Parents can join as well at <https://hangouts.google.com/group/zPCEURwCi2zGUrrp9>.

OFFERTORY REMINDER

The Church is still in operation even though we are not gathering in person at this time. Any monetary help you can give would be appreciated. We ask that you continue to give regularly if you are able.

Two ways to give at this time:

- Online at cotgs.org/giving/pay-online/
- Mail a check to the Church Office.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CORNER

The Corner has temporarily closed as we follow the guidelines of our city leaders and the recommendations of health officials to practice social distancing for the good of our community at large. The ladies at the Corner look forward to announcing a date that they will be able to reopen and return to normal operations. They send their blessings to you and pray you stay safe, stay well, and keep the faith! Follow the Corner on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

VBS INFORMATION

Vacation Bible School is on the calendar for June 8 - 12. At this time, we are uncertain about whether or not we will be able to have VBS. It requires much planning and many volunteers to make it a success. Since we are unable to gather at this time and we do not know a definite "stay home" ending date, the status of VBS is pending.

WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS (suspended until further notice)

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist (Rite I)
8:45-9:30 a.m. Breakfast Fellowship
9:30-10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m. Family Eucharist (Rite II)
5:30 p.m. "Come As You Are" Eucharist (Rite II)

Nursery For the Little Ones

0 - 2 Years in the Nursery 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
3 Years - Kinder in Children's Chapel 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
From Children's Chapel they join their families in Church before Communion.

Sunday School Classes

Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Children Meet in the Water Street Classrooms
Youth Meet in the Water Street Classrooms
Adults:
Large Group w/Rev. Black & Rev. May in Munds Hall Auditorium
Young Families w/ Rev. Campbell in Dobbins Hall Classroom
Small Group w/Rev. Fuller in Munds Hall Library

Weekday Services

Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. Midday Eucharist (Rite II)
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Monthly Services

Church of the Good Shepherd offers a service of Holy Communion at the Trinity Towers retirement community at 3:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month.

St. James Chapel Services*

Tuesdays at 8:05 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (Middle School Chapel)
Tuesdays at 8:40 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (Lower School Chapel)
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. St. James Preschool Chapel
Thursdays at 8:10 a.m. Contemporary Morning Prayer (All School Chapel)

* During the school year

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