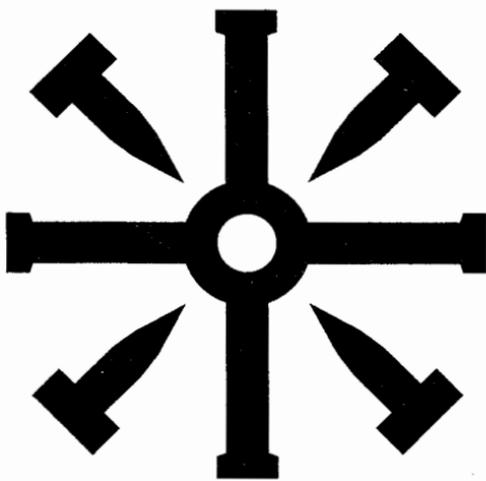


*The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd*

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April

2007



**Holy Week**

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*George Jones*

*Seeking and Serving Christ in all persons*

## Holy Week and Easter: A Collision with Joy

Beloved, we have arrived at the brink of Holy Week. We are traveling on a train bound for a head on collision with no time to put on the brakes. The appalling events of Good Friday cannot be stopped. At the time, individuals could have chosen differently. Now, the story has been written, like the *titulum*, which Pilate placed above the cross, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The events of Good Friday now descend on the church inexorably with an awful and frightening logic.

And yet we know that Good Friday is not the end of the story. It is part of a single, unified paschal mystery, the dying and rising of Jesus, through which joy and new life bursts into God’s world. At Easter, Jesus, scarred though his body is, returns with grace and forgiveness for ALL. In the Creed, we confess that these things occurred for us and for our salvation. I have recently stated that I do not believe in certain evangelical theories of the atonement (penal substitution), which reflect at most a minority opinion in the New Testament and which were not predominant in the early church. The early church tended to stress Christ’s triumph over the powers of evil, through a cosmic battle on the cross. It is the same battle to which we allude in the baptismal liturgy when we renounce “the powers that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God,” as well as Satan and our own sinful desires. It is the same victory which we proclaim in the Exsultet, the great hymn of the Easter Vigil, “This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell and rose victorious from the grave.”

As the Exsultet also teaches us, the church has always connected the Paschal mystery with the Exodus, with the passover feast of God’s liberation of God’s ancient people: “This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.” Easter is the Christian passover, in which we pass from death to life with the Lord Jesus. It is the feast of forgiveness, freedom, and new life in the risen One.

This Lent, I’ve been reading James Alison’s *Undergoing God: Dispatches from the Scene of a Break-In*. I like the title of this book a lot. In part, undergoing is Alison’s word for passion, *passio*. Undergoing is more active than suffering. Christ actively suffers, until the very end, but even then, he actively accepts being handed over into the brutal hands of sinners. Alison has a lot to say about atonement. He also has a lot to say about Christ standing in the place of victims, in order to transform a violent world from within.

In a chapter titled "Worship in a violent world," Alison suggests that the breaking in of God's Kingdom, made definitive with Easter, is the way that we tell that our world is violent. Otherwise, we'd just think it's normal. Christ subverts the world's violence from within. The Christian liturgy is a message from God's new world, in the midst of the world's liturgy of scapegoating and violence. After all, the world has always been that way (at least since Cain, who is more a symbol than a historical figure), and the 11 o'clock news confirms that it still is. Easter, with the sacraments of the church that embody its offer of new life, gives us the possibility of another kind of living, beyond the violence of every human community, including the family, the church, and the state. I say this in a world at war, at a time when even the most permissive Christian teaching about war, the just war tradition, is being completely ignored by the United States.

I invite you to participate as fully as you can in the services of Holy Week. A full schedule is included in the newsletter and is reprinted in the Palm Sunday bulletin as well.

We are on the verge of a train wreck, but even now we can catch a whiff of the incense and hear the far off choirs, of angels and human beings, singing "Alleluia."

*We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;  
for by virtue of your cross  
joy has come to the whole world.*

In Christ,

*Bill*

## Holy Week 2007

All are welcome! Invite your friends.

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday (April 1, 10:30 a.m.)

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (April 2-4, 5:30 p.m.)

Maundy Thursday (April 5, 7:30 p.m.)

Good Friday (April 6)

*12 noon to 1:00 p.m.—Ecumenical Service at Good Shepherd.*

*7:30 p.m.—Proper Liturgy of Good Friday*

Saturday (April 7)

*8:30 a.m.—a brief service of the Word*

*8:00 p.m. – The Great Vigil of Easter*

Easter Sunday (April 8)

*8:30 a.m.—Parish Breakfast.*

*10:30 a.m.—Festival Eucharist of the Resurrection.*

## The Blog of the Good Shepherd: Call for Links

<http://gsathens.blogspot.com>

There is a link on the parish website under Sermons (Blog), or you can visit the site directly at the address above. Sermons, newsletter articles, and other reflections by the rector will be gathered here. Comments and charitable conversation are more than welcome on the site.

The Blog of the Good Shepherd is intended to add more interactive features to the parish website and to reach more audiences with the Good News. It is also a place where we might develop some online Christian education. We invite parishioners with websites or blogs of their own to link to the blog, as well as the parish website (<http://www.chogs.org>).

Links from myspace, facebook, etc. (if you don't have anything too racy up there!) will also improve our web presence and help us to reach new members. Just as we are ambassadors for Christ in our community and at work, so too are we called to bear witness in cyberspace. Many people now go to the web before the yellow pages when looking for a new church home.

Southeast chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present

**The Diversity of the Church's Song**

**Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.**

**Church of the Good Shepherd**

The program will include an audio-visual presentation, discussion and singing session of multi-cultural sacred music. Invite your friends for a wonderful evening of worshipping together through song.

**Our guest presenter will be John Repulski from Christ Church, Cranbrook, Michigan.**

*John Repulski is Director of Music at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, MI, (a suburb of Detroit). Located on the grounds of the prestigious Cranbrook Education Community, CCC is the largest Episcopal congregation in Michigan. John's responsibilities include directing five choirs, serving as principal organist, managing the concert series, and overseeing a staff of supporting musicians. He is currently the Dean of the Detroit Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is an active member in the Association of Anglican Musicians and the Leadership Program for Musicians. Before arriving at CCC in 2001, he served as music director at other Episcopal and Lutheran churches; most notable was his tenure as associate organist at St. John Episcopal Cathedral in Denver (1995-99). His other appointments include St. Paul Lutheran Church in Denver (1999-2001), Trinity Episcopal in Bloomington, IN (1993-1995), and Church of the Nativity Episcopal Church in Indianapolis (1985-1993). John has also served as senior adjunct faculty at Iliff School of Theology in Denver (1996-2001), teaching courses in music and liturgy. He holds a Master's Degree in Organ and Church Music from Indiana University (1995), studying organ with Marilyn Keiser, and has done graduate study in Theory and Composition at Butler University. Over the last 15 years, John has been involved in many church music conferences including the Evergreen Church Music Conference where he was the coordinator for several years, and the LPM Summer Conference, chairing the planning committee in 2004 and 2006, and the Mississippi Conference on Liturgy and Music (Summer 2006). An organist, pianist, and liturgist, he is also a published composer, arranger, and recitalist; and has been a producer/recording engineer for numerous choral recording projects. John is known for his innovative and eclectic approach to church music and his ability to incorporate a wide variety of musical styles into the liturgical setting.*

# March Vestry Highlights

**Accessibility Concerns:** Pursuant to an inquiry from a potential new parishioner, Fr. Carroll raised the issue of the moral and evangelical need for Good Shepherd to meet and even exceed Americans with Disabilities Act compliance in terms of our accessibility for people with physical challenges. Bob Shelly will obtain a bid from the carpenter to retrofit the front pews to accommodate wheelchairs when the carpenter performs scheduled pew maintenance. The Building and Grounds Committee will look into completion of an ADA assessment to generate a comprehensive list of needs in the building. We hope to do as much as we can prior to the capital campaign (in about four years), and to meet all remaining needs at that time.

**Lay Leaders' Meeting:** A group of Vestry members will attend a meeting of vestries and wardens with the bishop and bishop-elect at Procter on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Vestry Retreat:** The retreat will address the role of a vestry in the life of the parish and begin a broader conversation about initiating intentional listening sessions to implement the goals that the parish identified in its parish profile. Formats will be modeled on the community outreach meeting, which produced a budget proposal out of a community meeting. The goal will be broader than setting a budget, but the 2008 budget will reflect input from these sessions. The Vestry decided to hold an evening retreat at Good Shepherd this year.

**Recycling:** Jane Forrest Redfern reported that our contract for a new dumpster company, including curbside recycling, will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>. This program will save Good Shepherd \$30 per month.

**Reflections on the Bishop-Elect's March 11<sup>th</sup> Visit:** The meeting discussion included many comments that reflected how hard some of our neighbor congregations are struggling. The three consistently repeated comments from members of Good Shepherd concerned campus ministry, importance of the choir and music program, and the need to preserve the Episcopal Church's inclusive welcome to all.

## **Easter Lilies**

If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of Easter Lilies in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone, please contact the parish office at 593-6877 by Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$20 per memorial or thanksgiving.

## **Easter Breakfast**

The Annual All Parish Easter Breakfast will be Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. in Nehls Hall. Please contact Curt Sherman to volunteer to help.

## **Church Clean Up Day**

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to noon or beyond. Rain-out date will be Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Outdoor work could include yard cleanup, pruning, painting stripes in the parking lot, placing garage back on foundation, work around Episcopal House. Inside projects include window fans, cleaning under/behind counters & appliances in kitchen, scraping/painting ceiling about kitchen counter, etc. Parishioner are asked to bring their own lawn tools. For more information contact Ted Foster at 593-8615.

## **Habitat for Humanity Rummage Sale**

The Faith Build Coalition of Habitat for Humanity is having a big rummage sale on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at Christ the King University Parish. We would appreciate your donations to that sale. These include clean, wearable clothing, games, dishes, collectables, and other small items. No large items please. You can give these items to Twig Kaufman prior to the sale. Spring is the time to clear the clutter. Make new room in your home by donating items you have not used for the last two or three years to this Habitat rummage sale! For more information contact Twig Kaufman at 592-3694.

## **Open Dates for Altar Flowers**

The open dates for altar flowers are May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and August 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to reserve one of the above dates, please call the parish office at 593-6877.

## April Events at Good Shepherd

<b>1</b> 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II noon – Rehearsal 5:00 pm – HE II	<b>2</b> 11:30 am – Bible Study 1:00 pm – organ tune-up 5:30 pm – HE II 7:00 pm – Boy Scout	<b>3</b> 5:30 pm – HE II 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>4</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW Soup Supper & Via Media 7:15 pm – CR	<b>5</b> 7:30 pm – Maundy Thursday service	<b>6</b> noon – Ecumenical Good Friday service 7:30 pm – Liturgy for Good Friday	<b>7</b> 8:30 am – brief service 9:30 am – Altar Guild cleaning 8:00 pm – Easter Vigil
<b>8</b> 8:30 am – Easter Breakfast 10:30 am – HE II 5:00 pm – HE II	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm – Boy Scout	<b>10</b> 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>11</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW Soup Supper & Via Media 7:15 pm – CR	<b>12</b> 5:30 pm – Vestry Retreat 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>13</b> 5:30 pm – Ultreya Potluck 6:30 pm – Ultreya	<b>14</b> Parish Clean-up
<b>15</b> 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 1:00 pm – Regional CR 2:00 pm – LI 5:00 pm – HE II	<b>16</b> 11:30 am – Bible Study 7:00 pm – Boy Scout	<b>17</b> 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>18</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW Soup Supper & Via Media 7:15 pm – CR	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm – Vestry 7:30 pm – Alanon	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 am - YG
<b>22</b> 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 5:00 pm – HE II	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm – Boy Scout	<b>24</b> 9:30 am – Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:30 pm – Alanon 8:00 pm – AA	<b>25</b> noon – Free Lunch 5:30 pm – MW Soup Supper & Via Media 7:15 pm – CR	<b>26</b> 7:30 pm - Alanon	<b>27</b> 5:00 pm – AGO Ministry Dinner	<b>28</b> 11:00 am – Bishop’s Consecration @ Mershon Auditorium
<b>29</b> 8:00 am – HE I 9:00 am – Ad Ed 10:15 am – SS 10:30 am – HE II 2:00 pm – LI 5:00 pm – HE II	<b>30</b> 11:30 am – Bible Study 7:00 pm – Boy Scout					

### Key Guide:

HE I – Holy Eucharist Rite I  
 LI – Lindley Inn Eucharist

HE II – Holy Eucharist Rite II  
 SS – Sunday School

MW – Midweek Eucharist  
 CR – Choir Rehearsal

YG – Youth Group Meeting  
 Ad Ed – Adult Education