

Lent and Easter at Holy Comforter

JOURNEY WITH US

Welcome to a Lenten journey.

Lent is a time to leave the comfortable and engage in experiences which stretch us, moving us within ourselves and beyond ourselves... perhaps accompanied by others that are eager to experience the same. It is an opportunity to turn the map we've been following upside-down; maybe to look closely at the key which explains the symbols; perhaps to flip it over to find the enlarged maps of certain points of interest; or maybe to stare at the colorful pictures on the front and wonder where on the map they might be. The season of lent can be that for us.

And then when the journey ends we arrive at a destination and begin to experience firsthand, in three dimensions, what was simply flat on the map or just noted by a dot or lines. It bursts off the page and we become a part of it, the experience changes us and then we go on from there, to new and exciting places. The Easter season can be that for us.

Our faith is both a journey AND a destination. A journey we take time and time again, yet it is always new. A destination that we arrive at which is never the same. We invite you on this journey toward this destination, as we climb into and out of our cocoon, discovering the unique map that God has created for each of us. Grab your walking stick and let's go!

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Greg+

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CELEBRATION

Pancake Supper!

Do you like pancakes? Do you want to indulge before Lent? If you answered yes to either of these questions then you NEED to come to the pancake supper. The pancake supper is February 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and it is brought to you by your very own youth! The cost is \$5/person or \$20/family with proceeds benefitting the youth program. Contact Sarah Cavins for information or to volunteer.

Ash Wednesday

marks the beginning of Lent, and we signify our desire to live into this time more deliberately or perhaps more austere by receiving ashes on our foreheads; a sign of our penitence and mortality. We will offer Ashes to Go outside the church after the 7:15 service until 8:30 am and again from noon - 12:30 pm on Ash Wednesday in addition to the services listed on the next page.

Community Dinners

We will host a dinner every Wednesday in Lent from 5:45-6:45 with a suggested donation of \$5/person or \$20/family with dietary restriction alternatives if requested. Register at: <https://forms.gle/Vo6yeQqaeEvdKGYb6>
Or to help: <https://tinyurl.com/5ee5yn3u>

Lunch with the Pastors of Park Road

Last year we shared lunch each Wednesday of Lent with the Park Road clergy and members of these churches. We'll rotate again this year. Bring your own lunch; drinks and dessert will be provided. We will meet at noon each Wednesday of Lent, beginning March 1: Sedgfield United Methodist, March 8: Park Road Baptist Church, March 15: here at Holy Comforter, March 22: Avondale Presbyterian Church, March 29 Woodlawn Community Fellowship.

Parish Retreat At Montreat April 21-23

The Parish Retreat is a decades old tradition at Holy Comforter where all members of our parish family are invited to a weekend in the mountains to enjoy a time of fun, relaxation, and spiritual growth. Those who have attended for years as well as those who are new to Holy Comforter have found this to be a richly rewarding experience as we grow in faith and fellowship. Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/42em89mj>

STUDY

Jesus' Last Week a day-by-day journey

Over the course of 4 Sundays in Lent, walk with Jesus from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. Taken from the book, "The Last Week" by Bible scholars Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan, this class examines the deeper story of each day of Holy Week as related in Mark's Gospel, the only one that provides a day-by-day account of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem. Join Adult Spiritual Journeys circle group members Mitzi Alexander and Vicki Bott in Van Every 207 during The Hour on March 5, 12, 19, and 26.

Women of Holy Week

On Sundays during Lent, at 11.30, join Rev. Cat for a book discussion group based on 'Women of Holy Week' by Dr Paula Gooder. Each week, we'll hear the story of a woman connected with Jesus during Holy Week, followed by time for questions and discussion.

Please let Rev. Cat know if you'd like to join the group, and you can buy a copy of the book through Park Road Books or other retailers online. You can listen to each chapter at <https://tinyurl.com/a3dkhemb>

[Looking for Lenten Devotions you can read on your own?](#) Episcopal Relief and Development will send daily meditations to your inbox or you can download the PDF. Sign up at this link: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/>

COMMUNITY

Lenten Movie Thursdays

Lent is upon us, and so is our movie series! Here are the dates and tentative movie line-ups. We would love to have a person lead in organizing the meal for each of the five Thursdays... unless you are overly fond of pizza and subs, which is Fr. Greg's standard fare.

All movies are on Thursdays, and begin with a meal at 5:30 pm in Van Every Room 207.

The theme for this year is "Transformation."

March 2: "Mr. Mom"

March 9: "Places in the Heart"

March 16: "Mass"

March 23: "The Hundred Foot Journey"

March 30: "The Shawshank Redemption"

Prayer Buddies

During Lent we would like to ask adult members of the congregation to anonymously sponsor one of our youth and pray for them each day, and even send little encouragements! In turn, our youth will be praying for our children. Want to participate? Email Sarah Cavins at sarahc@holycomfortercharlotte.org. We will reveal who our prayer buddies are after the 10 am service on Palm Sunday.

Easter Lily Orders and Deliveries

As usual, you may purchase an Easter Lily in thanksgiving for or in memory of a loved one by contacting a member of the Altar Guild. After the Easter Sunday service, we will once again be sharing the beauty of the season by delivering Easter Lilies to homebound members of the parish. Contact jessicad@holycomfortercharlotte.org to help.

Wednesdays Becoming Beloved Community

Each Wednesday night in Lent starting March 1, Christ Church is having online conversations on walking the way of love and reconciliation using the Episcopal Church's Becoming Beloved Community outline for Liturgical Year A. It is a time to listen, reflect and dialogue about what it means to be in community. Some conversations will be one-on-one, some small group breakouts and others in the full group. The conversation will be on zoom from 7 - 7:50 pm each Wednesday. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/598nhk4a>

CALENDAR

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
February 21 - 5:30 -7:30 pm.

Ash Wednesday – February 22
Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 7:15 am and 7:00 pm (English) and at 1 :15 pm (Spanish). "Ashes-to-Go" will be offered after the 7:15 am service until 8:30 am and from 12-12:30 pm; in front of Van Every.

Palm Sunday – April 2
8 & 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist;
12:30 p.m. La Misa

Maundy Thursday – April 6
Bilingual 7 p.m. service
followed by Overnight Prayer Watch

Good Friday – April 7
Three Hours' Devotion from 12:00 -3:00 pm;
Good Friday Liturgy at noon, Seven Last Words service at 1:00 pm

Holy Saturday – April 8
The Great Vigil of Easter 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 9
9 a.m. and 11 am Holy Eucharist;
La Misa at 1 p.m.
Easter egg hunt following the 9 am and 1 pm services

April 23
Due to parish retreat, no 8 am service.

Common Morning, Common Prayer is back on Mondays and Tuesdays as well as on Thursdays at Southminster. Look for dates and times online and in the Blast.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

March 5 -- Taizé for Lent at 6:00 pm

Taizé services are simple, reflective and meditative, with prayer, silence, and singing chants. It is beautiful to take part in or even just to come along and listen. Whether you've never been to a Taizé service before, or have loved it for years, all are welcome!

March 12 -- Cozy Compline at 6:00 pm

Wind down your weekend with Rev. Cat. We'll start with a potluck dinner (bring a dish to share if you are able!), there will be conversation, a story, and Compline.

March 19 -- Choral Evensong at 5:00 pm

You're invited to end your Sunday in a prayerful way by attending Choral Evensong on Sunday, March 19 at 5:00pm here at Holy Comforter. This beautiful liturgy, lasting about 45 minutes, is one of the unique gifts that the Episcopal tradition offers to the world. Marked by moments of music, prayer, and silence, this service will be sung by the Holy Comforter Evensong Choir, comprised of singers from Holy Comforter and other Episcopal parishes in Charlotte.

March 26 -- Paul Malina voice recital at 5:00 pm
Holy Comforter Choral Scholar, tenor Paul Malina, will sing a concert of sacred and spiritual music in the church on Sunday, March 26 at 5:00pm. Paul has sung with the Holy Comforter Choir since 2017, during his undergraduate studies at UNC-Charlotte as a Vocal Performance major. Paul will graduate this spring from Winthrop University with a Master of Arts in Teaching. Paul will be accompanied by pianist Jeremy Mims, who serves as Director of Choral Activities at Winthrop. His program will include works by Handel, C.P.E. Bach, Samuel Barber, and spirituals by Burleigh and Johnson, among others.



April 2 -- Patrick Pope organ recital at 5:00 pm
Holy Comforter music director and organist Patrick Pope will offer a recital of organ music, featuring pieces that illuminate the dramatic narrative of the holiest week in the Christian calendar. The recital will be shaped in a way that allows listeners to follow the arc of Holy Week, from the triumphant nature of Palm Sunday, to Jesus' commandment to love one another on Maundy Thursday, and the solemnity of Good Friday.