



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

THIS SUNDAY April 5 & BEYOND

Love in Fearful Times



Holy Week starts this Sunday with the commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem plus the narrative of His passion, crucifixion and death.

This will be a very different Palm Sunday. Instead of singing our 'Hosannas' in stark contrast to shouting our 'Crucify Him' in our churches some minutes later, we will be either following some live-streamed service from home or praying with the family, using the Book of Common Prayer, or some emailed bulletins prepared by our church.

Our lives are in the middle of some unexpected schizophrenia. The things we have been doing for years, even centuries, cannot be done at this time. This has been a rough Lent, and an even rougher Holy Week is coming. The death toll of this epidemic keeps on rising, and we will probably not start sighing in relief until after Easter Week. Fear is a common feeling pervading people's lives now. Fear of contagion, of getting sick and dying. Fear of not being able to survive in the midst of the economic crisis. Fear that the world will not be like it used to be.

Even our faith is under fire right now. People who like to question God all the time find times like these particularly favorable for such questioning. And then we have to brace ourselves harder than usual and ask God to increase our faith. Some people may even mock us by asking: ‘What kind of God is this that makes it so hard for believers to celebrate His beloved Son’s passion, death and resurrection?’

But the events we commemorate during Holy Week are not any less schizophrenic than those of this time in which we are living. Think of it. The people who have witnessed or heard about Jesus’ prodigious works of healing, restoring, resurrecting, welcome Him to Jerusalem by waving palm branches and shouting Hosannas. Just some hours after that people join the Jewish authorities in shouting ‘Crucify Him’ and Jesus is condemned to die on the cross.

Were they the same people? Or maybe partially so? Some interpreters say they were different people. But no one can ascertain that some of those who shouted ‘Hosanna’ were not among the crowd that condemned Him to death. The fact is that fear of not being accepted by those in authority can make people do horrible things. We all know that. Fear is what prevents us from doing God’s will. Jesus says that true love casts fear away.

Understandably, these are fearful times. By using love to overcome fear we are imitating what Jesus did before his unfair accusers. Paradoxically, real love in a time like this is demanding that we keep physical distance and abstain ourselves from gathering to celebrate at church. It is not only ourselves we are protecting, but all others as well. We can still keep in touch and care for one another through electronic media. We can still use our ingenuity to commemorate Jesus’ triumphal entry into our lives, and be honest enough to recognize that there are times when our fear and lack of love crucify Him again. But Holy Week is just starting. It culminates in our Savior’s glorious resurrection. The victory is His and ours if we faithfully follow His Way of Love. Even in the hardest times. Even in schizophrenic times.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
Isaiah 45:21-25 Psalm 22:1-11 Philipians 2:5-11 Matthew 27:1-54

CALENDAR

SATURDAY: Societies of Mary -- Zoom Meeting

Topic: Rosary Zoom Meeting

Time: April 4, 2020 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/139767157>

Meeting ID: 139 767 157

SUNDAY: The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Recurring Sunday service at 9am Zoom meeting:

Topic: All Saints' Sunday 9am Service Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/282264110>

Meeting ID: 282 264 110

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

MONDAY 6:00pm Experience, Strength and Hope AA Group (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY AA Meetings
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY Easter Sunday

Recurring Sunday service at 9am Zoom meeting:

Topic: All Saints' Sunday 9am Service Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/282264110>

Meeting ID: 282 264 110

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

NOTE: To activate Zoom you need to click on the link and zoom will download and put you in the meeting. If you have a camera and microphone they can interact in the meeting. The meeting is setup to note auto turn on your camera. You will need to make that decision. Otherwise it will be like last Sunday's Facebook video and you can listen and watch.