

# News for Scattered Pews

April 2022



## Val's Voice

This week, just before Holy Week, I have been preparing various liturgies connected to our gathering as a community around the reliving of Jesus' last few days.

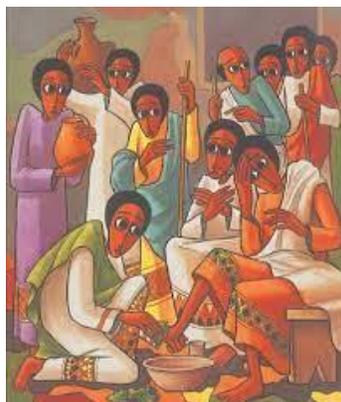
The prayers and readings and actions recount stories that have shaped the faith of Christians for millennia. Some are celebratory, as on Palm Sunday with pilgrims waving palm branches, or intimate, as on Maundy Thursday when Jesus gathered with his friends in the upper room. And most recently I have considered the Good Friday liturgy, that day when we reflect on the death of our Lord which brings healing to our world, even in the midst of suffering.

Always powerful, somehow it seems even more so this year.

So many of us are struggling to comprehend how the people of Ukraine can be trapped in such a horrific time.

Others are living with worries about loved ones, friends or family, who find themselves sick or hospitalized, alone or grieving. Still others wait with longing for friends or acquaintances to arrive as refugees from places where they fled for safety years ago. And all of us are conscious of the corporate healing that is needed on this land, a land which itself longs for reconciliation, and a revitalization of the cultures of the Indigenous people whose ancestors have lived here for millennia.

The Solemn Intercession we will use this year (adapted from "A New Zealand Prayer Book") includes this petition:



Where Charity and love are  
Ethiopian artist Nebiyu Assafa

*Faithful and compassionate God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of all who call on you in any trouble, grant them the joy of receiving your help in their need, and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

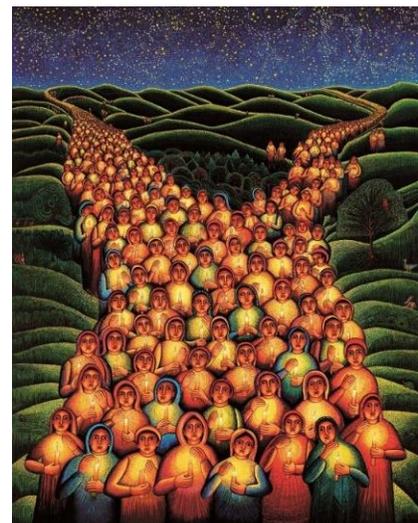
For all of us who find ourselves grieving so much that is wrong in this world, Holy Week can be good for us. In our grief and our longing, we can place ourselves in the long line of God's people who have hoped and still hope for a better world. We can also place ourselves in the line of God's people (of a variety of faiths) who serve their neighbours with great kindness. And finally, we can be reminded over and over that our God is indeed faithful and compassionate.

There truly are so many troubles in this world... this Holy Week we gather in prayer for the sufferings of all around our world, and we gather in hope as well, for the new life, the new Creation, the resurrection joy by which God seeks to renew the world.

God's steadfast love and undying hope, to you and yours, and to so many we don't know, this holy season of redemption and resurrection.

In God's love,

Val



Art by John August Swanson

## Vestry Notes from March 22

We began by considering one or two things that have contributed to joy or strength in our lives. A few themes emerged: the people we have in our lives - friends, family, partners, kids and grandkids - as well as thankfulness to God with the beginning of each new day and the way music has of expressing our joys and sorrows. *Members of St. Mary Mag, what brings joy or strength to your life?*

**Our parish finances** are stretched a bit this year. In January offerings are often low, but they didn't bounce back as much as one might hope in Feb - leaving us \$3,200 behind our budget. Judy noted some people haven't found a way to contribute that works for them, so a reminder to everyone that **offerings can be received in a variety of ways:**

- Automatic monthly bank withdrawal (also known as PAR): contact Judy to set this up
- E-transfers from your financial institution to [stmary@mts.net](mailto:stmary@mts.net)
- Cheques mailed to the church at 3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg, MB R2M 1Z2
- In-person at Sunday worship or by arranging with one of the Wardens

**As always, thanks so much for your generosity!**

**Don't forget the Spring Garage Sale!**  
**April 29 - 30**  
**Please check your email and our website**

**We have resumed in-person worship**, and are also livestreaming it on Zoom for those who prefer that. There have been some technological challenges with Zoom, and while some have been worked out we're still working on others. We are getting information from sister parishes and looking to meet with a videographer who can offer more insight. Please remember those working with technology in your prayers!

One third of our **Special Easter Offering** will go to support the children who attend Kasaka Nursery School in the Diocese of Luweero in Uganda. The school's administrator noted how critical early childhood education is for getting a good start.

Judy, our **office administrator**, has now begun working entirely remotely, although she will return quarterly for work that must be done in person. **You can still email her, or leave a message on the church phone, and she will get back to you.** As well, Wardens and Vestry members are taking on some of Judy's tasks.



## HOLY WEEK

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### *Palm Sunday*

*Sunday, April 10, 10:30 am*

#### *Maundy Thursday*

*Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm*

#### *Good Friday*

*Friday, April 15, 10:30 am*

#### *Easter Sunday*

*Sunday, April 17, 10:30 am*

**Barbara Jalibat has been taking a course through 1Just City called "Let Justice Flow".** She filled us in on her invaluable experience of learning about addictions, trauma in various forms, racism, sexual orientation issues, and the frustrating inability some folks have trying to access critical services because they do not have a fixed address. These justice issues matter, and we will seek to work on some of them this year.

**Renters are gradually returning to our building!** Nancy's Kindermusik students, as well as a variety of Guides, Scouts, Line Dancers, Scrabble players and others are again filling our place with voices... how nice to see them back!

**Brian Mayes, our City Councillor, has been in touch** asking if there is a small project he could help fund. Right now we are considering raised garden beds or rejuvenating the St. Mary Magdalene bus bench. If you have an idea that might benefit both church and community please talk to Brian Crow.

The Parish of St. Mary Magdalene is on Treaty 1 territory.

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