



The Franciscan



May 2022

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• Our Vicar •

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FROM OUR VICAR

By the time this newsletter reaches you, it will be Eastertide. We the church will be living in what should be the most awe-filled, joy-filled season of our lives. In the early church those newly baptized and all the faithful who loved them would not stop their catechetical gatherings after the baptisms and Easter celebrations of the vigil.



... Continued pg. 2

MUSIC FESTIVAL

MAY 22, 2022 6 PM

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Redemption *Life has a way of bashing us about. We each bear our scars, even though we prefer to hide them from the gaze of others. But this Easter season, we celebrate with joy that extraordinary power of God which redeems what is broken, mends what is torn, and gives life to that which has died. This is the good news of Easter:*

"For the one who raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us."

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram

Society of Saint John the Evangelist



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From Our Vicar...



By the time this newsletter reaches you, it will be Eastertide. We the church will be living in what should be the most awe-filled, joy-filled season of our lives. In the early church those newly baptized and all the faithful who loved them would not stop their catechetical gatherings after the baptisms and Easter celebrations of the vigil. They would return to their teachers for eight more days to bask in the glow of what they had experienced, to digest it fully, to understand the power and the meaning of that holy

bath, holy birth, and first meal of life in community. This time was called the time of Mystagogy, the study of the mysteries. It was meant to be a time of joy and exuberance, of gratitude and contemplation, of thankfulness and belonging. Much like the old tradition was for married couples to leave for a honeymoon after the wedding, this week of Mystagogy was meant to be a honeymoon of sorts. A time when nothing was more important to their lives than reliving those precious moments of invitation, of conversion, and of new belonging and learning how to live more deeply into them on the other side.

As Christians we are often much better at preparing for things to happen than living into them as they are happening. But God wants us to drink deeply from life's cup. To taste joy. To smell eternity. To feel the embrace of the body of Christ enfolding us in a kind of safety and protection the world cannot know. God wants us to bathe in divine love and lounge in the opulence of prodigious grace given freely. God wants us to have a honeymoon at the end of our Easter just to drink in the miracle and let it reconstitute us, making us whole and perhaps even happy.

During these fifty days of Easter may your hearts be as full of thanks as they were full of longing during Lent. May you find again and again that as we return to the empty tomb, it is still empty! Christ is still risen for us, and still waiting to embrace us in a garden full of the sweet smells of resurrected life.

The season of Easter spans 50 days of celebrating the resurrection and culminating in Pentecost. Yet, for many of us, Easter Sunday comes and goes and we forget this call to practice resurrection in an ongoing way. We, perhaps, aren't sure how to bring resurrection into daily life.

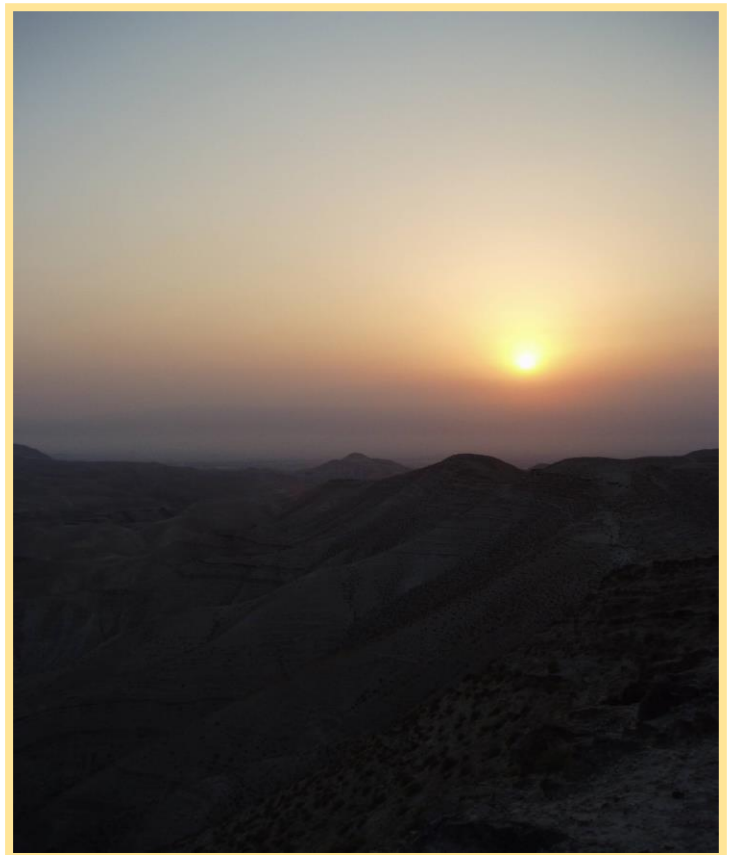
The stories we hear during the Easter season highlight the resurrected life of the body – Thomas touching Jesus' physical wounds, the nets being cast out from the boat to draw in an abundance of food, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus with Jesus and breaking bread with him. In this last story we read that their "eyes were prevented from recognizing him."

When Jesus returns in resurrected form, he is fully embodied, yet hard for us to recognize. The disciples do not expect their dear friend to be among them again and so they miss this truth with their limited vision.

This speaks of an invitation to see the world in a different way. Practicing resurrection is, in part, about becoming aware of how we see the world. When we rush from thing to thing, never pausing, never allowing space, we see only what we expect to find. We see to grasp at the information we need. We see the stereotypes embedded in our minds. We miss the opportunity to see beyond what we want. We walk by a thousand ordinary revelations in our busyness and preoccupation.

Consider celebrating resurrection this Easter season with a commitment to deeper vision. This kind of seeing takes time. We have to slow down and wait. We have to release wanting to see something in particular, so that we can be open to what is being offered in the moment. This is the heart of contemplation – to see what really *is*, rather than what we would expect.

Let yourself be willing to see the world differently, so that what others miss in the rush of life, becomes transfigured through your openness and intention. Practicing resurrection means walking along the road and paying close attention, making space to receive the gift of bread, the nourishment of conversation, and a vision of the sacred.



Sunrise over Palestine

I value greatly the work of Christine Valtner Paintner, from the online resource entitled, "Abbey of the Arts." This is an excerpt from her writing. As we live out the Resurrection of our Lord, see what resonates for you and consider a practice during the season of Easter up to Pentecost. Blessings always!

Imagine if, during the Easter season, we each took on practices like these:

1. Make a commitment to move slowly through the world, resisting the demand for speed and productivity that is tearing our bodies apart and wearing them down to exhaustion.
2. Reject compulsive "busyness" as a badge of pride and see it for what it is—a way of staying asleep to your own deep longings and those of the world around you.
3. Pause regularly. Breathe deeply. Reject multitasking. Savor one thing in this moment right now. Discover a portal into joy and delight in your body through fragrance, texture, shimmering light, song, or sweetness.
4. Let yourself experience grief for the vulnerabilities of your body. Be exquisitely tender with yourself and all of the aches and pains and limitations of embodied life. Make a space within to welcome in the sorrow of difficult memories.
5. Any time you begin to hear the old voices of judgment rise up about your body—whether self-consciousness or criticism or denial—pause and breathe. Then stand firm against those voices, as the desert elders counseled us to do, and tell them you will not offer them sanctuary anymore.
6. Play some music you love, and dance. Be present to the body's desires in response. Perhaps just a finger tapping at first. Then slowly let the impulse travel up your arm and across your chest, taking root in your heart, so that your dance might emerge from this place. Even just imagining yourself dancing can bring you alive.
7. Roll around on the grass, the way dogs do with abandon. Release worries about getting muddy or cold or looking foolish. The body isn't concerned with keeping things neat and tidy. Don't hold yourself back.
8. Every day, at least once, say thank you for the gift of being alive. Every day, at least once, remember the One who crafted you and exclaimed, "That is so very good."
9. Allow a day to follow the rhythms of your body. Notice when you are tired, and sleep. When you are hungry, eat. When your energy feels stagnant, go for a long walk. In truth, it often takes several days to sink into this kind of attunement but begin to consider how you might invite this awareness into your daily life.
10. Be present to the earth-body, which is the matrix of our own being. The earth offers herself so generously for nourishment. Remember that earth-cherishing is intimately connected to cherishing your own embodied being.

What does it mean for us to not just say we believe in a resurrected life, but to truly practice resurrection?

The Messenger

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—
equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters, which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished. The phoebe, the delphinium.
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,
telling them all, over and over, how it is
that we live forever.

-- Mary Oliver, from *Thirst* , © 2006 Beacon Press

Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email Stfrancis.simi@gmail.com
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - link in the St. Francis Weekly
 - Remember to keep in touch with each other through the Phone Tree
 - Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.
Secure online Giving available through PayPal:

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

The Common Cup

We are celebrating returning to the Common Cup, or the wine in the Chalice for all to drink, as of Palm Sunday. It is a joy to bless you with this offering and returning to the unity this represents for all who believe.

In Presiding Michael Curry's Book, *THE WAY OF LOVE*, he shares what the Common Cup means to his family. *His father was an Episcopal priest in Buffalo, New York, and his father came from a long line of Baptist preachers. When Curry's mother and father were dating, Curry's mother took his father to an Episcopal church in Chicago. When they visited, there were only a few Black parishioners in the pews. Curry writes that when it came time to come forward for communion, his father was both amazed and dubious. There was only one chalice on the altar, and this was the 1940s.*

So, Curry's father hung back as his mother went forward wondering if the priest would really offer her the same cup that everyone else was using. "He held his breath as my mother sipped. And as the cup was passed, the next person did drink. And the next. And the next. And the next." Curry continues in quoting his father, "Any church in which Blacks and Whites drink out of the same cup knows something about the Gospel that I want to be a part of."

The chalice is a powerful thing. Prior to Covid, I often would hear how one of the defining reasons people have found such a home at St Francis is through the invitation to communion. At St Francis, we recite a prayer from the Christian community in Iona, Scotland as an invitation to communion. It is as follows:

"This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you, like me, who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites us. It is his will that we should meet him here."

The power of the chalice binds us together and in liturgical traditions, a symbol of our unity as believers. The invitation to participate in communion is the most welcoming act we can offer at St. Francis. All are welcome and we say and mean it with conviction. We unabashedly practice open communion.

Question for Self-Reflection: How does Communion or the Holy Eucharist nourish your life and faith?

Notice From The Bishop's Office: "While receiving in one kind only (the consecrated Bread) continues to be an option in the Diocese of Los Angeles, effective on Palm Sunday (April 10, 2022), Bishop Taylor, acting on our recommendation, has approved the option of returning to the prayer book-preferred option of receiving both the consecrated Bread and Wine."

This means at St Francis: Chalices return to the Eucharistic service beginning Palm Sunday (Hosanna!).

Individual wine cups will continue to be offered. Intinction by communicants in the common cup is not yet permitted.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

MAY 22, 2022 6 PM

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**St Francis' Easter Sunday Service on the Patio
Was well attended with over 120 people**

Parish Prayer Needs:

Healing: Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Megan, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan and family, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Kristin, Rob, Pam.

St. Francis Book Club

We are forming a new book club!
Anyone who would like to join us
should contact me:
Chris M at 805.276.4971



Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848 and Amazon donates to **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church every time you order through Amazon.**

Creativity allows our finest instincts to take dimension.

-Haiku by Diantha Ain



**Line Dancing Continues Wednesdays
On the Patio 4:30- 5:30 pm**

BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet that is an ongoing need. The Baby Closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12noon -1pm.

They are collecting
DIAPERS SIZE 5,6,7

and has a HUGE Need for
Boys' and Girls' Clothing Sizes
4T, 5T - 6&7.

**Healing Service Continues to meet
weekly on Wednesdays in the
Sanctuary.**

All are welcome to attend this casual
mid-week service with Eucharist at
10:00 am on Wednesdays.

*Steam rises from a cup of tea and we are
transported back in time.....*

The Simi Valley Historical Society



*is cordially hosting a Victorian Tea Party for adults and
children 12 and older.*

On Saturday, May 21, 2022 at
11:30am at Strathearn Historical Park
137 Stathearn Place, Simi Valley, California

Tea party attire encouraged
Gloves, hats & lace

Fine teas will be brewed
Delectable desserts shall be enjoyed

By reservation only, limited seating
Tickets available May 2, 2022

May 2022 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Peggy S.	Susan S.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Gerri H.	Reuben A.	Susan S.	Tony F.	Kerri-Jo H.
LEM	Chrissy B. Tracy H.	Tracy H.	Lisa N. Chrissy B.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Tracy H.
Usher / Greeter	Tony F.	Rebecca S.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Reuben A.
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Gerri H.	Chris M.
Preaching	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.

June 2022 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Peggy S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Gerri H.	Reuben A.	Susan S.	Tony F.	
LEM	Lisa N.	Tracy H.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Chrissy B.	
Usher / Greeter	Tony F.	Rebecca S.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Chris M.	Gerri H.	
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 David Kitch Preaching Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	2 8 pm Men's AA	3 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	4 10 am Healing & Eucharist 7:30 pm AA PH	5	6 8 pm AA PH	7
8 Mothers' Day Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	9 8 pm Men's AA	10 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	11 10 am Healing & Eucharist 7:30 pm AA PH	12	13 8 pm AA PH	14
15 David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	16 8 pm Men's AA	17 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	18 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	19 6 pm H.H. HOA	20 8 pm AA PH	21
22 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	23 8 pm Men's AA	24 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA	25 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	26	27 8 pm AA PH	28
29 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	30 Memorial Day 8 pm Men's AA	31 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA				

RECYCLING AT ST FRANCIS

Please bring in your Recycling on the **last Sunday of the month** – we'll put those cans and bottles to good use!

WEEKLY COFFEE HOUR HAS RETURNED!

Contact the Church office if you are interested in Hosting: 805.526.5141

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Newsletter – May 2022

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
Phone 805.526.5141
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TO:



Sunday Service:

10:15 am

Wednesday:

10 am Healing Service

