

To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

This note will sound repetitious because I have some of the same thoughts and concerns, I had a month ago. I am still heartbroken about our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. It sometimes seems overwhelming, but we are not to give up hope. The apostle Paul tells us (Hebrews 10:23), "Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy."

I am grateful that our return to "optional mask wearing" has not had any bad consequences. I was worried that we might have to return to mask wearing and am thrilled that that has not been the case. It is a great joy to worship together and see each other's faces.

The other thing that has been on my mind and my heart are our sisters and brothers in the parish that are undergoing serious health challenges. We have and will continue to keep them and their families in our prayers.

The coming services of Holy Week are some of my favorites of the church year. The Triduum which connects Maundy (Holy) Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are some of the most beautiful liturgies in the Prayer Book. They really are intended to be thought of as one long service over as many days. I highly encourage you, as you are able, to attend as many of these as possible. It really makes Easter a very different and joyous event if you also move through the Last Supper and the Crucifixion first.

After two plus years of pandemic and related restrictions we will have a very festive Easter here at Ss. Peter's and John's! Complete with a Brass Quartet, flowers and (heads up) Incense. After such a long wait it will be beautiful!

It is lovely to see the days grow longer, becoming warmer and the world turning greener. It is God's way of saying that whatever else may be going on in the world, new life always comes. Death and darkness never have the last word.

Grace and Peace,

John +

Father John †

Christmas has a large and colorful cast of characters including not only the three principals themselves, but the angel Gabriel, the innkeeper, the shepherds, the heavenly host, the three Wise Men, Herod, the star of Bethlehem, and even the animals kneeling in the straw. In one form or another we have seen them represented so often that we would recognize them anywhere. We know about the birth in all its detail as well as we know about the births of ourselves or our children, maybe more so. The manger is as familiar as home. We have made a major production of it, and as minor attractions we have added the carols, the tree, the presents, the cards. Santa Claus, Ebenezer Scrooge, and so on. With Easter it is entirely different.

The Gospels are far from clear as to just what happened. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. Matthew alone speaks of an earthquake. In the tomb there were two white-clad figures or possibly just one. Mary Magdalen seems to have gotten there before anybody else. There was a man she thought at first was the gardener. Perhaps Mary the mother of James was with her and another woman named Joanna. One account says Peter came too with one of the other disciples. Elsewhere the suggestion is that there were only the women and that the disciples, who were somewhere else, didn't believe the women's story when they heard it. There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of "fear and great joy." Confusion was everywhere. There is no agreement even as to the role of Jesus himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

It is not a major production at all, and the minor attractions we have created around it — the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs — have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much nor subtract much. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah* sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalen, will never stop searching it till they find his face.

~originally published in *Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Words*

Frederick Buechner

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Sundays - 10am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMk13U1JaaGNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 982 7706 2680

Passcode: 435902

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Other Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers

Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Wednesdays – 12pm Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95528786615?pwd=Z01DVGdvcG5XeVBIUVRMKzFFVVBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 2878 6615

Passcode: 634665

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Thursdays – 10am Coffee and Conversation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97366952412?pwd=WUtQVFMyWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6695 2412

Passcode: 120228

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/john.rohde.16/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92662278952>

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac4XCk34Dn>

Mark your calendar
Holy Week April 10 to 17

Sunday	Palm Sunday
Thursday	Maundy Thursday - Liturgy of the Word and Foot washing followed by Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar 7:00 pm
Friday	Good Friday 12:00 Noon
Saturday	Decorating the Church for Easter 9:00 am

April 17 ~ Easter Sunday ~ 8 and 10 Festal Eucharist

Vestry Voice

The March Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The February minutes were approved.

There were questions about the account Rector's Special Projects-Episcopal Relief & Development. What was this money originally intended to be used for and can this money be used for Ukraine relief? Father John will talk with Mother Kathlyn about this account. The February financials were approved.

The hot water heater in the church needs to be replaced. We have a quote from Lilly Plumbing for \$1800 which includes installation and removal of old water heater. Vestry approved this amount. We have made inquiries with our insurance company to see if this is covered under our flood insurance.

Mike Larson from St. James in Skaneateles will be here Saturday, March 19, to move the equipment from the basement to next to the organ. Vestry approved paying him going forward for any work that he does.

Talked with Verizon about the trouble we are having with dropped signals and no connections. We have the option of going with Verizon Fios instead of Verizon Wireless. It will increase our monthly bill from \$45 to \$115. Vestry approved spending the additional money to ensure that we can live stream from the church – there was one abstaining. There was an addendum added to the motion that we re-evaluate in one year.

There were inquiries about the account May Osbourne Memorial Youth Fund. What was the original purpose for this money and can it be used to offset the deficit in the Youth Fund that is used for

Work Camp? Further inquiries regarding this account need to be made.

We need volunteers for the clothes closet. There have been some inquiries and these have been directed to Suzanne Penird. Any donations that have been coming in have been placed in the parish hall so the people coming to the soup kitchen can take them if they need them. Jeff has also been bringing some things up from downstairs and putting them out.

The SU Brass would like to come back again this year – December 4, 2022.

In person fund raisers are now allowed. Further discussion will need to take place before any events can be scheduled.

Sharing of the communion cup will be allowed in the near future – possibly Easter.

The meeting closed with Benediction and Blessing. Next Vestry meeting April 13, 2022.

Fundraising

We are looking for new ideas for fundraisers. If you have an idea, please speak to a vestry member or Father John. We are continuing to accept sneakers for our latest fundraiser.

Clothes Closet

We are looking for volunteers to work at the clothes closet. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in volunteering for the clothes closet, please let Father John know or call the parish office at (315) 252-5721. We are also looking for donations of spring and summer clothing, especially children's clothes.

Church Cleaning

The cleaning of the church for Holy Week and Easter will take place on Friday, April 8, at 9:00 am. If you, or someone you know, would be available to help clean the church, please let Shirley Quigley know or call the parish office. Many hands make light work.

Donations

Donations Requested for the following:

- 1) Towards Monthly Verizon Hotspot Subscription: \$207.99 (Church being billed for monthly payments of approx. \$45/month - \$588.00 put on Ministry Grant Budget as an approximate yearly subscription cost – amount requested reflects the difference between what we received from the Ministry Grant and the actual cost of items purchased so included this difference in the Verizon Hotspot Subscription since that is being billed monthly to Church)

Donations Requested for the following items already purchased

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| 1) Gator Frameworks Elite 10Unit Rack Table, Dark Walnut | \$249.00 |
| 2) On-Stage Stands Wireless Xenyi Mic Clip, Rubber | \$10.95 |
| 3) 2 nd Ipad9 (for Zoom) | \$299.00 |
| 4) TZ Fleximount IPod/IPad Stand | \$9.88 |
| 5) 3 IPod Covers | \$35.28 |
| 6) 2 Ipad Covers | \$25.90 |

We would like to thank those who have already donated. It is greatly appreciated.

Ordination to the Priesthood **April 23, 2022, 10:00 am–11:30 am**

God willing and the people consenting, the Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop of Central New York, will ordain Meredith Kadet Sanderson to the Sacred Order of Priests.

Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

The Episcopal Church of Saints Peter & John

169 Genesee Street, Auburn, New York

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy: Red stoles

Due to COVID-19, masks will be required and social distancing is encouraged.