

THE SCEPTRE

VOLUME 52, No. 3

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

MAY 2012

An inclusive parish of The Episcopal Church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition

FROM THE RECTOR

Now that Holy Week and Easter are behind us we are beginning to look ahead to that rather prosaically named 'ordinary time.' Just what was in the minds of the liturgists who came up with this title I do not know but I can only hope that it was not intended to imply that Easter is 'extraordinary.' For, intense and exhausting as it may have been, Easter is, for Christians everywhere, 'ordinary.' When we celebrate Holy Week and Easter we are not reenacting historic events nor are we making a colorful commemoration of them; we are rather entering in an intentional way into something that we believe to be happening all the time.

Christian teaching is that the Resurrection of Jesus changes everything and brings about a new world order. As one of our Easter prayers has it, "the long reign of sin and death is ended and we are once again made whole." Yet that seems not to be the case; people still die, and there is more than enough of cruelty and hatred to make us see that sin has not ended. Does this mean that the Resurrection story is just that, a story, with little objective truth to it? By no means. The change that the Resurrection has brought about is dynamic, happening now in each of us and in the creation that is changing all the time. Our problem is we just don't see it. But the truth is the risen Christ is there walking beside us, just out of our range of vision, making the world new, yesterday, today, and forever.

A former Archbishop of Canterbury told the story of his encounter with a young woman recently commissioned in the Salvation Army. Finding herself



in a railway carriage with this exalted person (this is a very old story), the young lady eventually asked, "excuse me, you Grace, are you saved?" The Archbishop, being a kindly man, pondered

her question seriously and then gave this answer: "If you mean have I been saved, then, yes, I believe I have by the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you mean am I being saved now, then, yes, I believe that by my participation in the work of the Church, which is Christ Body here on earth, I am being saved. If you mean, will I be saved, then, yes, I trust in the mercy, grace, and love of God who created me that I will be brought to that fullness of life for which I was created."

Yes, creation was changed when Christ conquered death, it is being changed by our work as people of faith in the world that is, and finally the change that is wrought through the resurrection will be manifest in each of us when all creation is complete.

Father Paul

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HOLY WEEK
AT CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING



Photos: Marshal Cousins

UPCOMING EVENTS

Third Sunday Series

John Chen Harpsichord

Ely Karr Violin




Including works by:
J.S. Bach ♦ L. Couperin ♦ J.N.P. Royer

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 4 PM
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING
261 Fell St. between Gough & Franklin, SF
Civic Center BART, Van Ness MUNI, easy street parking
Admission by donation ♦ Hosted reception follows

2012 *Third Sunday Series* Concerts – Fall Season

- September 16 Concert in honor of SF JAZZ facility opening
- October 21 SCHOLA ADVENTUS
- November 18 Solstice Female Vocal Ensemble
- December 16 Kevin Baum and Jennifer Ashworth

All concerts begin at 4 PM. Admission is by donation.

Post-concert receptions in Lathrop Hall & Hardcastle Garden.

WHOSE BIBLE IS IT ANYWAY?

- Ever wonder why some books are included in Holy Scripture and not others ?
- Ever notice that some Bibles have more books than others ?
- Ever notice that sometimes the same story is told in different books – with some changes?

We will try to address these questions (and others that will arise) in a series of forums during Coffee Hour on three Sundays in June. Beginning **June 3rd** with “1611 and all that”, a class on just what books make up the Bible as we know it, we will continue on **June 10th** with a look at biblical languages and the challenges of translation, and then after a Sunday off, on **June 24th** we will challenge ourselves with a look at form and source analysis to see if we can find out just who wrote what and when.

This will not be dry academic course, but a fun look at how we can be scripturally literate without having closed minds and know how to use the Scripture without proof texting our own prejudice. Hope to see you all there.



*Tales
of a
Country
Church*



A fictional account of a small church somewhere in America trying to come to terms with the 21st century.

Episode 2

Reverend Bradley Morris was starting to feel more and more comfortable at St. Isidore's Episcopal Church. After just a few months there, he felt like St. Isidore's was gaining a reputation in the area for reimagining the experience of attending worship services. He was thinking to himself that he was glad one of his first homilies had included a challenge to his eclectic congregation to try and make every week a different approach to church.

Just last week, for example, the local Feminist Collective sponsored the Sunday Mass, changing all references to God throughout the entire service from He to She, from His to Her, and so on. It made for some interesting hymns, like "The Queen of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never, I nothing lack if I am hers, and she is mine for ever." And yes, some of the more traditionally raised parishioners did find the whole exercise a bit strange. But it was definitely different.

Today, Ronnie Shepherd replaced the traditional music with secular show tunes. And it turned out to be a Stephen Sondheim mini-retrospective at that, with the "Into the Woods" prologue for the processional, "Pretty Lady" (from *Pacific Overtures*) for the offertory, and "The Hills of Tomorrow" (from *Merrily We Roll Along*) for the recessional. It wasn't like any other Sunday's music for church, but it was somehow amazingly worshipful. Hard to describe how it all worked out, but somehow it just did. Ronnie really has an ear.

Rev. Morris was struggling to get the title for his next homily just right. At first it was, "Cloud Computing: Is God Running the Software?" and then "Cloud Computing: Putting the Software in God's Hands"

and finally, "Cloud Computing: Trusting God to Get It Done Right."

There was quite a buzz these last few weeks because several people had reported finding stray \$10 bills in random hymnals throughout the pews. But Head Usher Andy Baxter said that nobody on the usher crew had noticed anyone putting anything into the hymnals or prayerbooks. So this was still a mystery to be solved.

Deacon Joe Lester delivered a homily today on the importance of reaching out to members of the community that didn't feel served by any church. His suggestion of "Dog Church," where dog owners could bring their pets to the Rose Garden for a short, weekly service on Sunday afternoons that would end with a dog treat, seemed to be getting rave reviews.

Longtime parishioner Betsy Pond suggested podcasting the Sunday Mass, or at least the homilies, on the St. Isidore's website. But several on the Vestry weren't sure about the idea of making it easier for people to stay home and miss the in-person experience of St. Isidore's. Sure, you can ask people to contribute via the PayPal button, but most people might just ignore it.

Kitty Dumont's daughter, Felicity, was having fun colorizing the art pieces from the front of the weekly bulletins and then turning them into card decks, t-shirt designs, and even iPhone case covers. Only 15, Felicity, was already getting into the entrepreneurial spirit. Her secret goal was to get St. Isidore's name to be visible on some celebrity's t-shirt shown online or on TV. Who knows, it might work.

"A wealth of great ideas are coming out of this congregation," remarked Rev. Morris.

"But you know, Brad," Madge Turner, Acolyte Coordinator told him, "I think I keep coming back every week for the hug from the clergy after Mass on the front steps."

"That could be our next bumper sticker, Madge – 'Come to church and get a hug.'"

"Amen," she said. "Now you're talking."

Lër Nelson

Music This Month

*Sharing God's gift of music
with the wider community*

Sunday, May 6, 11am Easter V

High Mass

Prelude: *Élévation* Op.32 No.3 – Marcel Dupré

Anthem: *Christus resurgens ex mortuis* –

William Byrd

Motet: *Sitivit anima mea* – G. P. da Palestrina

Postlude: *Final* (11ème Symphony) – Louis Vierne

Sunday, May 13, 11am Rogation

Sung Mass

Prelude: *Nun danket alle Gott* S.657 – J.S.Bach

Anthem: *Greater Love hath no man* – John Ireland

Motets: *Pleasure it is* –

Christopher Bowers-Broadbent

If ye love me – Thomas Tallis

Procession to the Hardcastle Garden

Antiphon: *Thou visitest the earth* – Maurice Greene

Thursday, May 17, 6:30pm Ascension Day

Procession & High Mass

Prelude: *Majesté du Christ (L'Ascension)* –

Olivier Messiaen

Setting of the Ordinary: *Missa O Rex gloriae* –

G. P. da Palestrina

Anthem: *O Rex gloriae* – Palestrina

Motet: *Agnus Dei* – Palestrina

Postlude: *Heut' triumphiret Gottes sohn* S.630 – J.S.Bach

SCHOLA ADVENTUS

Jennifer Ashworth, *soprano*

Lauren Carley, *contralto*

Kevin Baum, *tenor*

David Alban, *tenor*

James Monios, *bass*

Dr Paul Ellison, *Director of Music*



Photo: Marshal Cousins

Sunday, May 20, 11am Sunday after Ascension Day

Sung Mass

Prelude: *Elegy* – Cecil Armstrong Gibbs

Anthem: *Rejoice, the Lord is King!* - Brian Kelly

Motet: *Ascendit Deus* – Jacob Handl

Postlude: *Heut' triumphiret Gottes sohn* S.630 – J.S.Bach

Third Sunday Series Concert, 4pm

Ely Carr, Violin & John Chen, Harpsichord

Sunday, May 27, 11am The Day of Pentecost

Procession & High Mass

Prelude: *Komm, Heiliger Geist* – Dietrich Buxtehude

Introit: *The Spirit of the Lord* – Healey Willan

Antiphon: *Vidi aquam* – Tomás Luis de Victoria

Anthem: *Factus est repente* – Gregor Aichinger

Motet: *O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit* – Thomas Tallis

Postlude: *Komm Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott*, S 651 –

J.S.Bach



HIGH MASS / SUNG MASS**SUNDAYS 11:00 AM****Feast Days during the week 6:30 PM****5th Sunday of Easter, May 6**

Celebrant: Robyn Arnold

Preacher: Rod Thompson

6th Sunday of Easter, May 13

Celebrant: Louis Newton

Preacher: Alex Martin

Ascension Day**Thursday, May 17, 6:30pm**

Celebrant: Robyn Arnold

Preacher: Robyn Arnold

7th Sunday of Easter, May 20

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Paul Burrows

Pentecost, , May 27

Celebrant: Rod Thompson

Preacher: Paul Burrows

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 May Don Fisher + (birthday)
- 4 May Brittany Kim Andress (birthday)
- 4 May Alex Martin (confirmation)
- 5 May Heidi Edson + (baptism)
- 5 May Mark Rose (confirmation)
- 6 May Rod Thompson + (baptism & confirmation)
- 7 May William Bonnell (confirmation)
- 7 May Lauren Carley (birthday)
- 8 May Paul Burrows + (birthday)
- 8 May Mary Hudak + (confirmation)
- 8 May Ron Eaton (confirmation)
- 10 May Mary Hudak + (birthday)
- 10 May Johannes Stahl (confirmation)
- 11 May Alex Martin (diaconate)
- 12 May Loren LeJeune (baptism)
- 12 May Ian McCloghrie (birthday)
- 13 May Nancy Eswein (birthday)
- 13 May Ler Nelson (confirmation)
- 13 May John Porter + (diaconate)
- 14 May Ron Eaton (birthday)
- 14 May Geoffrey Glaser + (reception)
- 14 May Jean Wright (birthday)
- 17 May Mary Hudak + (baptism)
- 17 May Ler Nelson (baptism)
- 18 May Mark Eriksson (confirmation)
- 18 May John Klopacz (birthday)
- 19 May Don Fisher + (baptism & diaconate)
- 19 May Bob Kramish (birthday)
- 19 May Louis Newton + (birthday)
- 19 May Pamela Vaughn (birthday)
- 20 May Mark Stanger + (reception)
- 21 May Wayne Fry (reception)
- 22 May Elizabeth Easton + (baptism)
- 24 May Adrienne Radkoff (baptism)
- 28 May David Alban (birthday)
- 28 May Lee Francke (confirmation)
- 29 May Ed Gabet (confirmation)
- 31 May Wade Dowdell (confirmation)
- 31 May Mark Stanger + (birthday)
- 31 May Erik Thrasher (confirmation)

NEW WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE**DAILY MASS**

Monday 6:30am, Tuesday 6:30pm, Wednesday 7:30 am, Thursday 6:30pm,
Friday 10:00am, and Saturday 9:00am.

EVENING PRAYER

6:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

A GIFT FROM ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



by Jude Morton

Sometimes one receives an unsolicited gift - personal, unexpected, made up of synchronicity and resonance. I got one of those on Palm Sunday.

When Michael Mayne, formerly the Dean of Westminster Abbey, died in 2006, I wrote a recollection of him for the Sceptre. I never met the man in person, but he provided me with one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. And now, years after his passing, he has done it again.

I visited St. Paul's Cathedral, London, for the first time in 1991, and it almost didn't happen. My then-partner and I had a half-day free for sightseeing. However, when we arrived at St. Paul's, we found a flurry of fancy hats and a security cordon. It was a special service, tickets only, and our efforts to talk our way in failed. But a kindly, plain English lady saved us - she bought tickets to this event every year and then waited outside, looking for likely strangers to receive her generosity. So we attended that year's service in honor of The Sons of The Clergy, a church charity founded in the time of Christopher Wren, and were treated to a parade of pomp and pageantry, including royalty and not one but three boys' choirs. I thought that experience was the gift of the day - until Michael Mayne mounted the pulpit to give the homily.

He spoke about the suicide of his father, a clergyman, which led to his family becoming beneficiaries of the charity being honored that day. But it was his eloquent insights about being the child of a parent who committed suicide, and his compassion for inexplicable suffering, that left me, also the child of a father who committed suicide, sobbing in my seat. That moment marked the beginning of my reconciliation with my father's final act, and the beginning of my return to a relationship with the church.

This year, I had the privilege of attending Palm Sunday services at St. Paul's Cathedral. In Pater Noster Square, a crowd of several hundred gathered, waiting for the arrival of a pair of donkeys escorted by drums and trumpets and a throng of Cathedral School children waving palm fronds. Standing in the sunshine while the choir filled the air with an anthem by Victoria, I believed that it was not possible to feel any happier. The mass under the glittering mosaic arches of the cathedral enfolded me in a solemn cloak of motets, hymns, and prayers, the best of Anglican liturgy. I thought I had received every present the day had to offer, and despite

the fact that it was Lent I felt like a child on Christmas morning surrounded by colored paper and ribbon. And I found myself giving thanks again to Michael Mayne for beginning my enduring connection to St. Paul's.

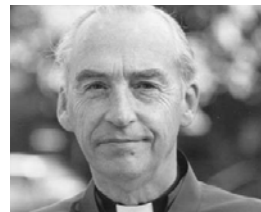
Afterwards, I browsed in the cathedral gift shop. One book caught my eye - Pray, Love, Remember. Pulling it off the shelf, I was amazed to find that it was written by Michael Mayne. I opened it, and there before my astounded eyes was his description of giving that very homily which had moved me so powerfully in 1991. What a marvelous chain of synchronous connection it was that forged another link to my experience that day.

What I hadn't known until I stumbled upon that book was that the homily which had been so important to me was also important to many others, who had family members or friends who had committed suicide. It was a controversial sermon, outside the conventional perimeters of subjects deemed suitable for grand occasions in an English cathedral. But many people needed to hear what he had to say, and in just such a context.

Michael Mayne was a man known throughout his life as one who embraced and attempted to connect disparate forces, notably religion and art, and the church with progressive social and community movements. Above all, he valued openness and vulnerability in his work as a clergyman, "the vulnerability that can only enhance our ability to be of help if we know, and can show others, how to use it creatively and redemptively."

*"Almighty God, whose most dear Son
Went up not to joy but first he suffered pain,
And entered not into glory before he was crucified;
Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
Acknowledging our own wounded nature,
And acting with compassion towards those who suffer
or are afflicted,
May find it none other than the way of life and peace."*

Collect for Monday in Holy Week



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AND NOW FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE ABIDE, THESE
 THREE; AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.
 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13