

From Father Nik

As he was now drawing near [to Jerusalem], at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if [they] were silent, the very stones would cry out.

~Luke 19:37-48

When Jesus rides into Jerusalem, he does so as a king. In Luke’s Gospel, the emphasis is not on him being a king *like David*—that is, a king of the Judeans, a king of Israel. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus rides in as the King of God’s whole Kingdom, Lord of all Creation. At face value, this appears ironic. Here is a poor, Galilean peasant laborer-*turned*-prophetic teacher riding a donkey into the capital city of a province on the edge of the greatest Empire on earth, and his disciples claim he is God’s anointed King of all Creation. It’s hard to imagine anyone taking this seriously, but the crowd does. And the Pharisees—who surely don’t take the spectacle seriously but are probably anxious that Pontius Pilate won’t appreciate the irony—try to get Jesus to calm the crowd. But Jesus is King of all Creation, so even the stones will acclaim his sovereignty.

Christ begins his triumphal descent into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, where days later he will suffer the betrayal, abandonment, arrest, and the anxiety of his impending fate. Now, however, he has the praise and support of his disciples and the multitude. Their cry, “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” echoes the song of the heavenly host of angels who announced his birth at the beginning of the gospel (2:14). This journey to Jerusalem is neither whim nor happenstance, but the destiny and orientation of the life that began with that obscure birth in Bethlehem. For the good news of this king will not end with his death in Jerusalem but will *be proclaimed to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem* after his resurrection from the dead (24:47).

Nik+

Coffee Hour

Thanks to Sally Campbell for this morning's refreshments!

Easter Church Flowers

Order in \$15 increments. Please, indicate your memorials/honors.

Order forms are in narthex of the church.

Send checks to Emily Dickson, payable to: Fork Church Flower Guild.

Also, please bring garden flowers for the Cross early on Easter morning.

Holy Week & Easter

March 20th – Palm Sunday, 10am Eucharist

Triduum

March 24th – Maundy Thursday, 7pm Agape Meal

March 25th – Good Friday, 7pm Liturgy

March 26th – Holy Saturday, 10am Liturgy

Easter

March 26th – The Great Easter Vigil, 7:30pm Eucharist

March 27th – Easter Sunday, 10am Eucharist

Images from Africa

The Smythes and the Haars will show pictures from their recent trip to South Africa, Samoa and Zimbabwe during coffee hour on Sunday, April 3 in the parish hall.

The African Jewelry Shop

will also be on display on Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10.

Christian Education

Godly Play Children are invited to hear the Word in a fun, learning environment in the Parish House during the first half of our Sunday morning worship; after which, they join their parents in church for Communion.

J2A Youth Group will meet on Sunday, April 10.

The Adult Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to study the Gospel according to Luke.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will meet next on Thursday, March 31, at 10am to continue discussing Chapter 6 (pp 116-140) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press). Please contact Kathy for directions: boysthree@embarqmail.com

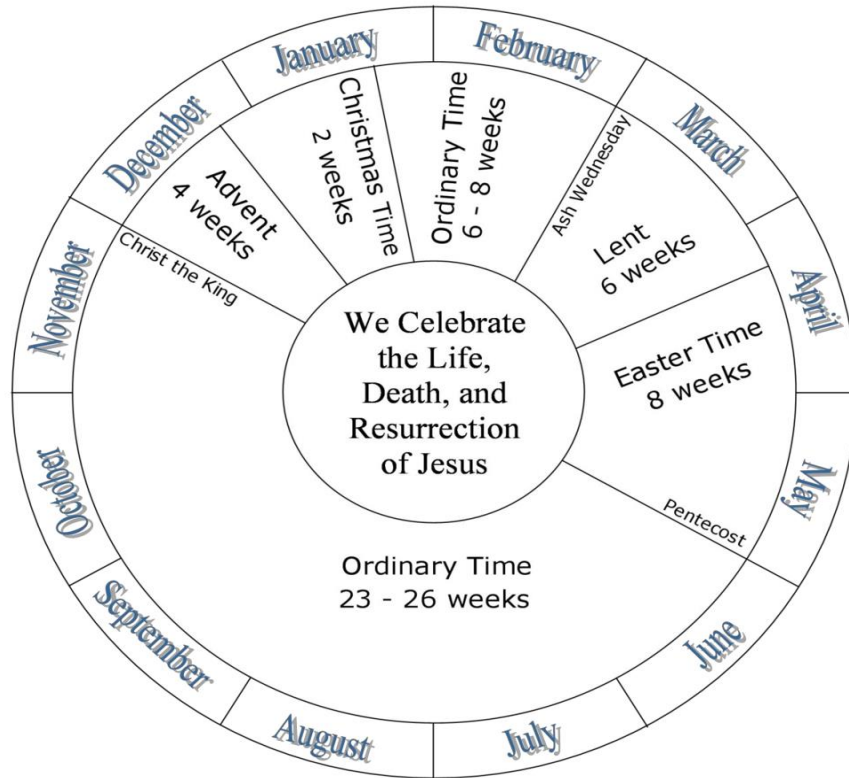
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, March 31, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to continue discussing Chapter 6 (pp 116-140) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press).

Christian Formation

If you have never been Baptized or Confirmed, and are interested in receiving these sacraments, please contact Fr Nik – KnicholasForti@gmail.com

**These classes are also for those considering
Reaffirming their Baptismal Covenant.**

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

- Monday, Mar 21 – Funeral at Bermuda Memorial Park, Chester, 11am-12:30pm
– Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 2pm-3:30pm
- Wednesday, Mar 23 – RMC Episcopal-Methodist Campus Ministry, 9:30pm
- Thursday, Mar 24 – Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows, St Stephen's, 11am

Looking Ahead

- Sunday, Mar 20 – Palm Sunday Eucharist, 10am
- Thursday, Mar 24 – Maundy Thursday Agape Meal, 7pm (in the Parish House)
- Friday, Mar 25 – Good Friday Liturgy, 7pm
- Saturday, Mar 26 – Holy Saturday Liturgy, 10am (in the Graveyard)
– The Great Easter Vigil (with Eucharist), 7:30pm
- Sunday, Mar 27 – Easter Sunday Eucharist, 10am
- Thursday, Mar 31 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon

Office hours: Jacquie Alleva, our office administrator, works Tuesdays, Thursday afternoons, and Fridays. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.