

ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY MARCH 23, 2014

From the Partlows

The Episcopal Church in the Anglican Tradition is a “liturgical Church”. But what exactly does “liturgy” mean? As with so much, the meaning has become diffuse and lacking in specificity. People will ask are you a Morning Prayer Church or Eucharistic? They confuse form and function. In brief the meaning of Liturgy is “The work of the People”. Liturgy is something we participate in not just observe. It is not an optional Sunday activity.

As a minimum we participate in singing the hymns and psalms responding to the prayer petitions and praying the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving with the Celebrant during the Eucharist. There are a number of specific tasks some of which require specific training and licensure. We will be delighted to prepare you for any ministry to whom you feel called.

- Lector: Reads the assigned Old Testament and Epistle and leads the recitation of the Psalm. Requires some individual preparation. Youth are appropriate and welcome.
- Chalice Bearer: Administers the Eucharistic Chalice assists the Priest at the table.
- Greeter: A crucial ministry that expresses the welcome of all people to Fork Church in the name of Christ and us. Youth are welcome.
- Prayers of the People: Leads the prepared prayers but is sensitive to include blessings and losses that have occurred in the parish and the world in recent days.
- Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Takes the elements consecrated at the Eucharist to those who physically cannot be present. Conducts an abbreviated service.
- Preaching. Lay preaching is an old tradition. We will be happy to help you get licensed by the Bishop
- Music. Nothing is more enriching to good liturgy than music. From joining the choir to an instrumentalist solo or group, you are welcome. *Bob and Ruth*

mean more than simply a quiet resignation to complete annihilation. That is merely a polite nihilism. No, to die well, even for the religious, is to accept not only our own terror and sadness but the terrible holes we leave in the lives of others; at the same time. To die well, even for the atheist, is to believe that there is some way of dying *into* life rather than simply away from it, some form of survival that love makes possible. I don't mean by survival merely persisting in the memory of others. I mean something deeper and more durable. If quantum entanglement is true, if related particles react in similar or opposite ways even when separated by tremendous distance, then it is obvious that the whole world is alive and communicating in ways we do not fully understand. And we are part of that life, part of that communication even as, maybe even *especially* as, our atoms begin the long dispersal we call death.

Hopkins last words are striking to me not only because it's rare and heartening to witness someone expressing joy at an occasion for grief. No, it's the last sentence that gets me – *I loved my life*. Hopkins was a religious person; he believed in an afterlife. But he seems to have experienced something more complicated than the typical (and, I feel, pernicious) religious sentiment of being happy to be “going to a better place”; the last sentence seems offered as an explanation for the first two: he is happy at the moment of death because he loved his life. On the face of it, this makes no sense: if he loved his life so much, how could he be happy that it was ending so early? The answer, I think, lies in that dynamic of life and death that I've just described, that capacity of dying into the life that one has loved rather than falling irrevocably away from it.”¹

¹ Christian Wiman, *My Bright Abyss: Meditations of a Modern Believer*. (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, NY, NY, 2013) p. 35-36.

African Team Ministries

African Team Ministries, an intermediary ministry between African and American churches, offers a wide variety of hand-crafted items, including sculptures, musical instruments, and jewelry, to support its work in orphan and refugee relief, missions and evangelism in East Africa. Visit the parish house after services on April 6 and 13 to see the display of unique, one-of-a-kind items that are being offered for sale this year. Your purchases will help provide funds to build drip irrigation systems, bringing relief and hope to the thousands of people who are suffering from drought in Kenya.

Visit <http://www.africanteamministries.org/Products.html> for a preview of items included in the sale. Thank you for supporting this valuable ministry. *Amy Newell*

Flower Guild & Altar Guild- Easter Flowers

The Altar Guild and Flower Guilds are looking for your help in making the Fork Church Sanctuary look most beautiful as we observe Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

For Palm Sunday (April 13th, 2014) we are hoping that one or two families would like to start a family tradition of giving a memorial Gift of the Palms to be blessed and distributed and the Palms for the Sunday Altar.

Memorials (April 20th, 2014) : Deadline March 31, 2014. Please specify the names of your loved ones as you would like them to appear in the Bulletin and note whether they are given in Honor of or in Memory of your loved one. For your convenience an order form is included in the Bulletin.

Easter Altar: (April 20th, 2014): Please consider a separate gift for the Easter Altar. The total cost for flowers for this occasion is a minimum of \$60.00.

Checks must be made out to Fork Church Altar Guild and sent or given to Linda Turner - 11079 Locust Ridge Place, Doswell 23047. Please include your phone number in case Linda has a question. (FYI -Each of these gifts is tax deductible.)

Order Forms on table in rear of Church, Thank You.

This Week's Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 23	5:00 PM Youth Group Meeting
Wednesday, March 26	6:30 PM Lenten Supper and Discussion. Bring a dish to share.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 13	Palm/Passion Sunday
	9:00 AM Adult Class
	10:00 AM Holy Communion
	10:00 AM Godly Play Sunday School (Parish House)
Thursday, April 17	7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Stripping of the Altar
Friday, April 18	7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday, April 19	8:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter
Sunday, April 20	10:00 AM Easter Day: Celebration of the Resurrection

Special Youth Dates

Sunday, April 27	10:00 AM Children and Youth Sunday
Sunday, May 4	10:00 AM Rite Thirteen Celebration

*All Youth Group meetings begin at 5 PM and are held in the Parish Hall.
Mark your calendars for March 23, April 13, 27, May 4, June 1*

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For this Wednesday's Lenten Program

The old saying is that the only thing certain is "death and taxes". In reality we are eager to talk about taxes, but no one wants to talk about their own death. The most definitive statement many of us will make is "I just want to go to sleep one night and not wake up" or "I just don't want to be there when it happens". As a young man, Christian Wiman, before his own illness struck, was very close to and present with both his Grandmother and his Aunt at their death. As his Grandmother was near death he dared ask her if she was afraid and she indicted "yes". But he was not sure if she was afraid of death itself, or the further pain of her illness. Wiman's thoughts below are worth our own reflection:

"The last words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, a poet and priest who died of typhoid at the age of forty-five, are striking: "I am so happy. I am so happy. I loved my life." How desperately we, the living, want to believe in this possibility: that death could be filled with promise, that the pain of leaving and separation could be, if not a foretaste of joy, then at least not meaningless. Forget religion. Even atheists want to die well, or well, or want those they love to die well, which has to