

Wednesday Lenten Programs

Our Lenten program continues Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM with a covered dish meal and discussion following. We are continuing to use a passages from Christian Wiman's book, My Bright Abyss:

Meditation of a Modern Believer: It's helpful to recall that Wiman is suffering from an incurable cancer, has a wife and young children and is wrestling with deep theological issues as he faces an unknown future. This week's passages come from the second chapter entitled "Sorrow's Flower":

Contingency. Meaning subject to chance, not absolute. Meaning uncertain, as reality, right down to the molecular level, is uncertain, as all of human life is uncertain. I suppose that to think of God in these terms might seem for some people deeply troubling (not to mention heretical), but I find it a comfort. It is akin to the notion of God, entering and understanding – or understanding that there could be no understanding (My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?) – human suffering. . . .

Faith is not some hard, unchanging thing you cling to through the vicissitudes of life. Those who try to make it into this are destined to become brittle, shatterable creatures. Faith never grows harder, never so deviates from its nature and becomes actually destructive, than in the person who refuses to admit that faith is change. I don't mean simply that faith changes (thought there is that). I mean that just as my sense of divinity that we have comes from the natural order of things – is some ultimate sense within the natural order of things – so too faith is folded into change, is the mutable and messy process of our lives rather than any fixed, mental product. Those who cling to the latter are inevitably left with nothing to hold on to, or left holding on to some nothing into which they have poured the best parts of themselves. Omnipotent, eternal, omniscient – what in the world do these rotten words really mean? Are we able to imagine such attributes, much less perceive them? I don't think so. Christ is the only way toward knowledge of God, and is contingency.¹

¹ Christian Wiman, My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer. (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, New York, NY, 2013) p 16-18.

ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY MARCH 16, 2014

Random Thoughts about Lent and Worship

As Lent is a more somber season, we will begin the service with the Penitential Order these next several Sundays. Here, in this portion of the service, we will have an opportunity to rehearse the Decalogue (otherwise known as the Ten Commandments) and Jesus' two great commandments. The confession and absolution bring this portion to a close and we move immediately to the singing of the Kyrie.

You will notice that there are no flowers decorating the church during the Lenten season. Neither will we sing or say "alleluia" in the service. Instead of the traditional purple, Fork Church has chosen a very dark somber blue for its Lenten colors. All this is to remind us that this is a season of reflection and prayer, a time to intentionally seek to grow in our spiritual life, as well as looking for opportunities to help others in some concrete way.

On Ash Wednesday we were called "to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting and self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (BCP 265) How each of us interprets these admonitions will guide our own personal journey in Lent. Some suggestions are – make an effort to attend Adult Sunday School, join the choir in rehearsing and singing in preparation for Easter, come to the Lenten Wednesday evening suppers and discussion, set aside 20 minutes a day to "be still and know that I am God", take time to read a spiritually uplifting book during this season.

Bob and Ruth

Flower Guild & Altar Guild- Easter Flowers

It's that time of the year – Holy Week and Easter are approaching. 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.

Parish Directory: Please check the parish directory posted on the bulletin board in the rear of the church to make sure your information is correct. We are working on a new parish directory.

This Week's Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 16	9:00 AM	Adult Class
	10:00 AM	Holy Communion
	10:00 AM	Godly Play Sunday
	School in,	the Parish House
		Vestry Meeting after church
March 16	5:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting
Wednesday, March 19	6:30 PM	Lenten Supper and discussion. Bring a dish to share. Excerpt for discussion from Christian Wiman's book is on the back of insert.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, April 13

Thursday, April 17

Friday, April 18

Saturday, April 19

Sunday, April 20

Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday

9:00 AM Adult Class

10:00 AM Holy Communion

10:00 AM Godly Play Sunday

School in the Parish House

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday

Liturgy with Stripping of the Altar

7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

8:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

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

Youth Group Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 5 PM and are held in the Parish Hall. Mark your calendars for March 16, 23, April 13, 27, May 4, June