

## From Father Nik

Throughout this Lent, our theme and focus has been on Covenant. First, we heard how God established a Covenant with Noah and his descendants (which means all people) and all the animals on the ark. Then, last week, we heard of the Covenant He entered into with Abraham and his descendants. And this Sunday we read of the coming of the Covenant at Mount Sinai after God had freed His people from slavery in Egypt.

It is, perhaps, tempting to think that each new Covenant replaces the one before it. Our throw-away culture is filled with examples of the next new thing replacing the previous model, creating an ethos with an eye for the novel, and a disregard for the old. New means improved and up-to-date, suggesting that old is out-of-date and disposable. However, this mentality does not apply to the Covenants. When proclaiming His Covenant with Noah, God says that it will continue “for all future generations” (Gen 9:12), for it is an “everlasting covenant” (Gen 9:16). Similarly, God promised Abraham that their Covenant would also be an “everlasting covenant” for Abraham’s descendants “throughout their generations” (Gen 17:7).

Each new Covenant builds upon the foundation laid by the previous Covenant. With each new Covenant, God demonstrates further the overabundance of His love. With each new Covenant, God’s blessings take on a more particular expression while, paradoxically, His promises become more universal in scope. And so, with each Covenant, He teaches us about the nature of love—that it requires us to have an actual disposition of caring and to do concrete things for the good of our neighbors. God shows us this by saving Noah and all the living creatures on the ark, by choosing Abraham and his descendants to be His people, and by making Israel a priestly kingdom. Finally, God demonstrates the true nature of love by sending His beloved Son, with whom He is one, to become one of us as a descendant of Abraham and a son of Israel. And in him, His only Son, His beloved, He establishes a new Covenant for all, built upon the Covenants of old—grace upon grace (John 1:16). *Nik+*

## What is Lent?

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

–BCP 264-265

### Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29 – 10am Eucharist  
Maundy Thursday, April 2 – 7pm Eucharist  
Good Friday, April 3 – 7pm Liturgy  
Holy Saturday, April 4 – 10am Liturgy  
Saturday, April 4 – 7:45pm Great Easter Vigil  
Easter Sunday, April 5 – 10am Eucharist

### Fork Cookbook

Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

### Birthdays

Ian Macdonald 3/10; Richard Claridge 3/12; Walker Smythe 3/13;

**Office hours:** Jacquie Alleva, our parish secretary, works Tuesday & Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.

## 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 worship, then join their parents for Communion.

**J2A Youth Group** meets twice a month for fun, fellowship, food, & formation. **The next meeting is today, Sunday March 8 @ 5pm in the parish house.**

**Adult Forum** meets Sunday mornings at 9am. **During the season of Lent we're doing a six (6) week study of St Paul's Letter to the Galatians.** Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

## Small Groups

**The Women's Book Group** meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. The next meeting is Thursday March 19, the book is *Unglued* by Lysa TerKeurst. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: [boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, March 19 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea.

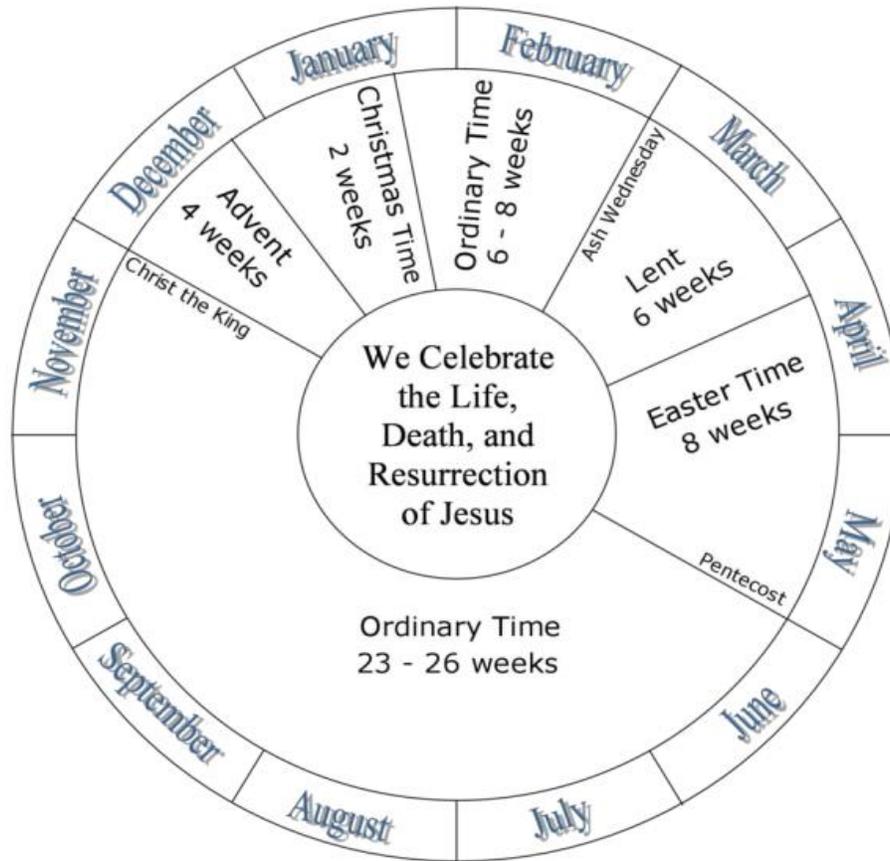
They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 103-111). Please join us!

## Christian Formation

A Christian Formation class for those seeking Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception is meeting weekly during the seasons of Lent & Easter.

If you're interested in being Baptized, Confirmed, or Received into this church, or if you would like to reaffirm your baptismal covenant, please contact Fr Nik – [KNicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)

# The Liturgical Year



## Nik's Calendar

Tuesday, Mar 10 – Clericus, 9-11am

Monday, Mar 16 – Meeting with the Rev. Dr. Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

## Looking Ahead

Wednesday, Mar 11 – Catechism & Confirmation class, 6:30pm

Wednesday, Mar 11 – Choir rehearsal, 7pm

Tuesday, Mar 17 – Vestry meeting, 7-9pm

Wednesday, Mar 18 – Catechism & Confirmation class, 6:30pm

Wednesday, Mar 18 – Choir rehearsal, 7pm

Thursday, Mar 19 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Thursday, Mar 19 – Woman's Book Group, 10am-noon