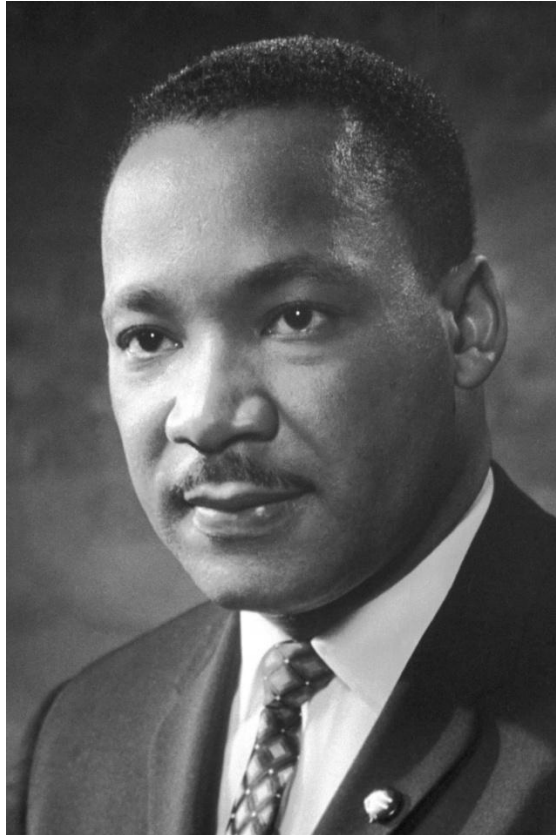




## The Episcopal Church of the Advent

April 8, 2025 Newsletter

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Martin Luther King, Jr. was honored with a Feast on the liturgical calendar of the Episcopal Church last week on April 4, the date of his passing.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin\\_Luther\\_King\\_Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr.)

### A message from Father Mark

At the center of this Gospel ready this last Sunday is Mary of Bethany. She is the sister of Martha and Lazarus. She does something profound for Jesus. She seems to understand his death is coming soon. In anticipation of his death, she anoints Jesus' feet with costly perfume. I've seen estimates that say that 300 denarii was about a year's worth of wages. So this was perhaps Mary's life savings. And then there's Judas. We all know Judas is the one who eventually betrays Jesus. Judas criticizes Mary for giving her all to Jesus. Judas came up with some good reasons for her to not give her all to Jesus. Most compellingly, Judas says this perfume could've been sold and the money given to the poor. That's a really good thing to do with the perfume. And the Gospel writer of John knows this too, so he comments that Judas was probably thinking he could steal the money for himself.

Of course, donating to the poor will make more of a material difference, and as Christians in the world's wealthiest country, it's something we need to be very aware of. Today, giving your all to Jesus may very well

mean giving it to the poor. But when Jesus was physically present in front of Mary, giving her all directly to Jesus was her best way of expressing love for him.

What is your most prized possession? Is it something you're willing to let go of for Jesus' sake? Is it something you're willing to pour out over Jesus' feet? Do we have the love Mary did to pour it all out as a physical expression of our inner commitment to him? Or do we make excuses like Judas to protect our possessions and criticize others who seem to be giving it all up for Christ?

As we begin Holy Week this coming Sunday, we remember God's love for us. We remember that God's love is transforming us to be vehicles of divine love in the world. And we remember that the love that led Mary to pour perfume on Jesus' feet is the same love that led Jesus to the cross. Divine unconditional love. As we journey in our faith walk, know that God is growing that same love in you. Growing that love in you so that it will overflow into love for God, into love for the poor, into love for the whole human family and all creation.

***Question of the Week: What are you willing to give for Jesus? It doesn't have to be a material thing. Maybe it's an attitude or old resentment or point of view or something holding you back in your spiritual life. But what is it?***

### **Schedule of Holy Week Services**

Please mark your calendar to attend the following services as we remember Christ's death and resurrection and events leading up to both:

#### **April 13, Palm Sunday**

NO 8:00 AM SERVICE

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 a.m.: Community Palm Sunday Procession (will depart from the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center).

10:30 a.m.-ish: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

#### **April 16, Wednesday in Holy Week**

7:00 p.m.: Tenebrae

#### **April 17, Maundy Thursday**

7:00 p.m.: Traditional Maundy Thursday service with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

#### **April 18, Good Friday**

12:00 p.m.: Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m.: Traditional Good Friday service with communion from the reserved sacrament

#### **April 19, Holy Saturday:**

9:00 a.m.: Holy Saturday service

8:00 p.m.: Great Vigil of Easter

#### **Sunday, April 20, Easter Day**

8:00 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### **You're Invited to a Lenten Bible Study!**

Join us for Loved to Life: A 40-day Pilgrimage through the Gospel of John

When: Wednesdays in Lent beginning March 12, 2025

Where: Advent Parish House 6:00-8:00 pm

What to Bring: Loved to Life by Ann Voskamp (available on Amazon, Target, Walmart, Barnes & Noble)

RSVP or questions: Debbie Permar, [debbie.permalink@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.permalink@gmail.com) or [adventmadison@bellsouth.net](mailto:adventmadison@bellsouth.net)

### **Stations of the Cross**

The regular Stations of the Cross liturgy will continue each Friday at noon through Lent, including Good Friday.

### **First Wednesday volunteers!**

Hey church family! A “First Wednesday” drop-in is a casual gathering where participants bring a snack, dessert, or beverage to share and where guests are welcome. **Want to host a First Wednesday? It’s really easy!**

#### **Here’s how it works:**

- Choose a month – It’s always the first Wednesday of the month. Easy to remember!
- Choose a time – usually two hours in the evening, but it’s flexible!
- Open your home – Just welcome everyone in for a great time together. Don’t feel like having it at home? Use the Parish House!
- Let the guests bring the food – Everyone will pitch in with food and drinks so you don’t have to do much.
- Let the church know that you are hosting on a certain date, time, and location. Call, email, or send a message through the website.
- When we get the notice then you’ll see it appear in the newsletter.
- Enjoy the fellowship – It’s all about connecting, sharing, and growing in community with each other.
- Hosting is simple, and it’s a great way to bring everyone together.

Advent parishioners have really gone all out in the past two years in hosting numerous First Wednesday get-togethers. We are so grateful to these folks for their willingness to make these fellowship gatherings happen:

- Nancy Bush (twice!)
- June & Martha Harrell
- Holly Shreiner
- Shelley MacMillan (twice!)
- Peggy and Charlie Hawkins
- Julie Jenkins and Frannie Hillsman
- Mary and Bob McCauley
- Jim and Elizabeth Branch
- Christmas First Wednesdays at the Parish House (twice!)

First Wednesday gatherings are a gift to Advent; our treasure of friendship and fellowship is one of the greatest strengths of Advent and draws us closer together. **Who would like to be the next host on Wednesday, May 7?**

### **Parish House update**

As some of you may know, the bathrooms on the first floor of the Parish House have been out of service for some time. They are now in working order. Uh, order!

### **Easter flowers and music**

We are now accepting donations for Easter flowers and music. You may donate In Honor Of, In Thanksgiving For, or In Memory Of, or a combination of the above. Donations can be made [electronically through the website](#), mailed to the church, or dropped in the collection plate. Be sure to include the names of the individuals you are donating for as well as your own name.

### **Rota for Palm Sunday**

**April 13, 10:30 A.M.**

Altar Guild – Abbott-Yost-Strickland  
Flower Guild – Elizabeth Branch  
LEM/PoP 10:30 AM – Rick Crown  
1st Reading – R Thompson

2nd Reading – G Thompson  
Vestry of the Day – Mary Horton  
Organ Tech – Vic Jackson-Lewis

**Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**April 6, 10:30 A.M.**

[Link to Readings](#)

Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
New Testament: Philippians 2:5-11  
Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

**Parish Prayer List**

**Parish:** Carol Blow, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Jeanne Dufort, Sally Green, Kate Jackson, Shandon Land, Kathy and Brian Lehman, MaryAnn Lisle, Anna Maret, Janet Mason, Charles, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Livy Scholly, and Betty Thomas.

**Friends and Family:** Eugene Broadbridge, Jane Brooks, Hunt Brown, Daphne Carter, Lynn Cupples, Lillian and Turner Eby, Mary Ann Edelman, Joseph Gagliano, Maddie Gartland, Annita Hunt, Grainger Hunt, Johanna Dufort Hunt, Julie Hancock Jones, Jan Kozel, Nancy Labak, Meg Limmer, Tracy Limmer, Jerry Maddox, Ross Mason, Dustin Pullen, Dennis Reeder, Carla Sherrill, Wayne Tamplin, Robin Thomas, Parker Westphal, and Jay Whitecombe.

**Community and Beyond:** Iliana Arias, Bishop Michael Curry, Beth Tamplin Jones, Bill Kurtz, Sherry MacMahon.

**April Birthdays**

**7** Charlie Hawkins; **11** Marsha Schmalhorst; **13** Hunter Hilliard; **16** Ian Garrett; **17** Rebecca Strickland; **20** Mary McCauley, Martha Harrell; **21** Caroline Vaughn; **24** Will Eskew; **30** Ann-Marie Walsh, Sam Easton

**April Anniversaries**

**18** Alicia & Erik Ramfos

**Week at a glance**

Date	Time	Location	Event
Monday, April 7, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Wednesday, April 9, 2025	9:00 AM	CH	Morning Prayer, Rite I
<b>Wednesday, April 9, 2025</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>PH</b>	<b>Lenten Bible Study</b>
Thursday, April 10, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open Book study)
Thursday, April 10, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed discussion)
Thursday, April 10, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	Al-Anon (open meeting)
<b>Friday, April 11, 2025</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
Friday, April 11, 2025	7:00 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed Book study)
<b>Sunday, April 13, 2025</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist, Rite 1</b>
<b>Sunday, April 13, 2025</b>	<b>9:15 AM</b>		<b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
<b>Sunday, April 13, 2025</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>Community Palm Sunday Procession from Cultural Center</b>
<b>Sunday, April 13, 2025</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist, Rite 2</b>
Sunday, April 13, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (open meeting)

PH - Parish House CH - Church

**The Episcopal Church of the Advent**

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The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright - Bishop of Atlanta.  
Reverend Mark Stewart Johnson - Interim Priest-in-Charge.

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, Vic Jackson - Junior Warden.  
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