

Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY

(Member of the Chenango District)

The Parish News

www.stannsaftonny.org

The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 761-4601 Office: 656-9502

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at one of the numbers above.

In an emergency and Fr. David can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301



**Pastor's Message
for Lent**

March! While there is no way to know for sure what will happen, it does seem that we will be able to begin worshipping together in person again! The development of COVID-19 variants is a little bit worrisome, but we will keep up with the latest science and continue to do our absolute best to worship safely.

Is this the beginning of some sort of “normalization”? Will we ever be able to “return to normal”? Those terms mean such different things to different people, that it seems to me to be the wrong way to approach the days, weeks, and months ahead.

The much better question, it seems to me, is “What have we been learning about our

faith this last year?”

If any of you have found your faith sorely tested, you are not alone – let us talk about that. If any of you feel as though you have lost your faith, you are still not alone – we most definitely need to talk about that! If any of you have found your faith strengthened, you are not alone – (yup, you guessed it) let us talk about that! No doubt you see the pattern.

Christians exist in community – in a caring community in which we share our experiences and understandings of our loving Creator God. This last year has provided a unique opportunity to understand more fully the challenges and rewards of continuing together as a community. Let us talk about that.

And, thanks be to God, at least for a little while in March we will be able to begin to worship again in person. Basically, we will be going back to the guidelines we had last fall. As Palm Sunday and Holy Week draws near, it looks like we will be able to follow the schedule we have in past years – Maundy Thursday/Good Friday services at St Paul's at 12noon, Zion at 5pm and St Ann's at 7pm.

Easter Sunday will be difficult, though. In past years, we have been lucky to find a supply priest to do the service at the parish I was not able to do. Following our old schedule means we need to find a supply priest for Zion for Easter Sunday this year and at this point I am not sure who is available. Another thing (of many) to hold in prayer. That is where we are and where we are going in the near term. Some important things to talk about! Blessing upon blessing to you all!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

The **SERVICE SCHEDULE** is not available due to the **COVID-19** and absence of parishioners to fill it in. Once regular services begin again, Lay Readers in attendance will be asked to read the lessons for that particular Sunday. The readings for each Sunday in March are listed below. Please take the time to read the lessons and Gospel for each Sunday. The corona virus is causing more than its share of problems but it hasn't stopped us from having a Sunday worship service. Holding a service via the "ZOOM" software is a little strange but seems to be working okay. If you have not tried tuning in for a "ZOOM" service, why not try it next Sunday. Everyone who has their E-mail address on file should be receiving a forward of Fr. David's instruction letter for each service. If you have not been receiving that letter, please advise Tom Vail of your E-mail address and you will be added to the parish listing. Bettom415@aol.com Yes, the "zoom" service is different, but change is what life is all about. Services are also available through the Diocese via their website.

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
	Please	See	Further	Below		
Lectionary (Year B)						
Mar 7		Exodus 20:1-17	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22	
Mar 14		Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21	
Mar 21		Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 51:1-13	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33	
Mar 28 Palm Sunday	The Liturgy of the Palms Mark 11:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47	
Apr 1	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalms 116:1, 10-17	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	
Apr 2	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalms 22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42	
Apr 4	Easter	Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18	



Altar Duty for the month of March is Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301. No later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that she can include a notice in the bulletin.



March 14th, 2021



<<<March Service Schedule>>>

3/7 - 9:15am - In person at St. Ann's Fr David Holy Communion (Wafer only)
Zoom and Facebook live as well.

3/14 - 9:00am - Zoom and Facebook live only. **NO** in Person at St. Ann's

3/21 - 9:15am - In person at St. Ann's Fr. David Holy Communion (Wafer only)
Zoom and Facebook live as well.

3/28 - 9:15am - Palm Sunday in person at St Ann's Lay Readers conducting
Morning Prayer Service

~~~~~In Person Holy Week & Easter Service Schedule~~~~~



**Maundy Thursday**/Good Friday **Services**  
**St Paul's at 12noon**

**Zion at 5pm**

**St Ann's at 7pm**

### **Easter Sunrise Service**

Will be held at St. Ann's on **April 4th at 7 a.m.**  
Weather permitting, the service will be held in the  
parking lot so dress accordingly. There  
will be **NO** breakfast after the service due to  
COVID restrictions.



**After the sunrise service,** 9:15am - In person at St. Ann's Fr David Holy  
Communion (Wafer only)

## St. Ann's Prayer List for March 2021

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. A current listing follows. The names listed are not necessarily members of the parish and may include individuals or other requests for which we have been asked to pray. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. "We are trying to be sure that our prayer list is as updated as possible and don't want to remove someone that should be on it." Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201. Please note: Long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two/three months unless updated.

SHORT TERM

Raevin  
Thomas  
George  
Eileen  
Anne  
Anonymous  
Riley  
Nancy  
Jerry Matthews  
Jason  
Pat

LONG TERM

Fr. David Hanselman  
Fr. Steven White  
Deacon Kay  
Pastor Becky  
Rev. Elizabeth Gillett  
Fr. Geoff Doolittle  
Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe  
Bishop Michael Curry  
The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph  
Emmanuel Church  
Epiphany Church  
Zion Church  
St. Paul's Church  
St. Andrew's Church  
St. Matthews Church  
St. Peter's Church  
Carol  
Peter  
Joyce  
Mya  
Holly  
Clifford  
Richard  
Nate  
Marion  
Rachel  
Burdette  
Bill  
Bonnie  
Hailey



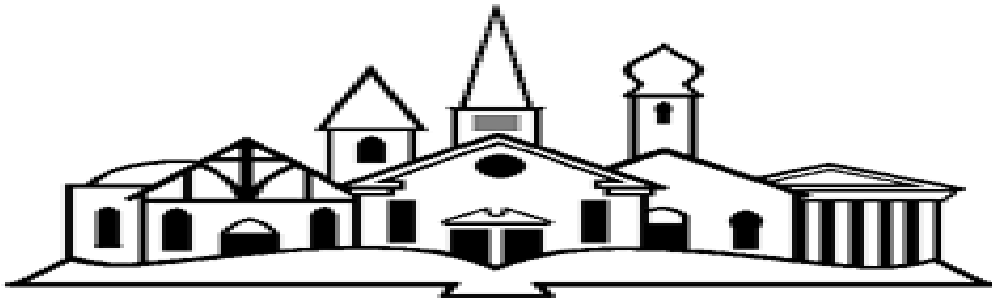
The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Learning Communities Initiative of the Diocese. The following prayer is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer: *Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*



### *Birthdays*

*6<sup>th</sup> Connie Beames  
7<sup>th</sup> Nancy Setford and Bobbi Zurn  
16<sup>th</sup> Alan Seacat  
25<sup>th</sup> Jody Proffitt  
27<sup>th</sup> Melrose Kelly  
28<sup>th</sup> Tracey Tallmadge and Laurin Felldin*

*Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary.  
Call 607-343-1301 or email [cttallmadg@aol.com](mailto:cttallmadg@aol.com)*



**CHURCH TERMS:** Palm Sunday – The sixth Sunday in Lent and the first day of Holy Week. It commemorates Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.  
Liturgical color: Violet

### **Day by Day Forward Through the Years:**

**Luke 4:1,2.** *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit...was led by the Spirit in the Wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.*

Scripture tells us Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit during the wilderness experience. God had seen to it that Jesus was alive in a way he had never been before healthy, filled with the Spirit, a new dimension of relationship developing and being revealed to him. He went into the desert whole and complete, in faithful obedience. And he went into that wilderness because he was led by the spirit to go there—he was not banished, exiled, driven out. He went accompanied by God, led by God, filled by God. We are never alone in our trip into the desert. We are filled with the Spirit we and led by the Spirit. Accompanied, filled with love and God, we understand clearly that relationship with God is everything. Next time you are led into the desert, or the first time, remember that you are filled with the Spirit and that the Spirit is leading you. The devil will talk on, but your spirit will listen and respond only to God. --1992



The Food Pantry is an important outreach in the Village and Town of Afton. St. Ann's is responsible for manning the Pantry on the second full week of each month, Wednesday nights from 5-7 pm and on Friday morning 10-12pm. If you would like to help with this outreach occasionally, please contact Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301 or Betty Vail 639-1201. Our wardens would like to thank those people who volunteer at the pantry as there are many families in need of food supplies.



### Vestry Hi-lites for February 2021

1. Outreach for February was designated to go to the Episcopal Relief and Development for USA disaster relief.
2. Thank you note received from UTO for our fall ingathering contribution of \$240.
3. Voted to continue our scholarship to an Afton Central School student for this year.
4. The Parochial Report was reviewed and discussed. Vestry approved submitting the report prior to the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
5. Holy Week and Easter services and how we might return to "in person" services were discussed. Approved to purchase a tablet for anyone who needs one to participate in the zoom services. Mado offered to help anyone with sign into the zoom service.
6. Approved authorizing Gary to apply for a grant to the Diocese for the purchase of the necessary equipment to "ZOOM" and Facebook services from the Church.
7. Financial report shows that we are solvent.



### Humor for the times

Some E-mail from seniors: "I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly."

"If you hear me talking to myself, I'm having a staff meeting."

"As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of – it will be misspelled and have no punctuation."

"A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country."



**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. I have decided to stick to love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.” The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

### **The Power of Faith**

**Francine Prose**

Not long ago, as I sat in our family dentist’s cheery office, with its gleaming array of state-of-the-art equipment, I was astonished to find myself discussing a most ancient subject: the power of faith—how we find it, how we lose and regain it. I can’t recall what led to my confessing that ever since my father died, I’d mostly lost my belief in a higher power. But I do remember my dentist telling me how, in his middle fifties, he’d rediscovered the strong religious beliefs he’d had as a child. And I can still hear the unwavering steadiness with which he reassured me, “Some people get mad at God. But sooner or later, they find it again.”

What he meant by “it” was faith, of course. It was as simple as that, though religion certainly seemed an unlikely subject for us to be chatting about. I’ve known my dentist—a kind and friendly man—for 15 years, but I never realized he was such a spiritual person. Usually, he tells me the latest jokes, and pauses for long intervals in the midst of whatever procedure he’s performing so we can exchange news of our children. But in his high-tech office, even as he cleaned my teeth, faith was very much on both our minds., as it is on the minds of many, in the most mundane and unexpected places.

What could be more human, after all, than to wonder about faith, which represents the purest form of our longing for the most precious, the most necessary, and (we may fear) the most unattainable gift of the spirit? What we seek from faith is nothing less than a reassuring forecast about the scariest storms ahead, nothing less than a promise that our lives have meaning and purpose. What we hunger for is the sense of awe and wonder that comes upon us when we feel the presence of the divine. What is fascinating, and mysterious is the ease with which the most modern and practical aspects of our lives coexist with the assurance that something higher is watching out for us, that things have a richer and deeper meaning than what may appear on the surface. People who feel perfectly at home in a world of computers, faxes, and pre-programmable microwave ovens also believe in heaven, in the power of prayer, and in the intervention of angels. I will never forget the conviction with which the doctor who delivered my two sons told me that, after 40 years of obstetrical practice, he still believed every birth—that birth itself—was a miracle. And I would like to think that my children have benefited in some magical way from coming into the world assisted by a person who saw their arrival as evidence of the divine.

Many faith-based books are selling to baby boomers who may have managed to “have it all” but still feel something is lacking. As many of our generation figure out that, armed as we are with science and technology, we’re still wearied by the troubles of the world, we return to the faith of our childhoods, take up New Age religions, buy books about the soul.

But it is during a crisis that we’re most sharply aware of the presence or absence of faith. In the hospital waiting room, I suspect that those staring into space or making small talk with strangers are secretly praying that they can change their loved ones’ fates or find strength, sustenance, and courage to deal with things they can’t affect. Praying only in desperate need and for particular outcomes is not unlike the simple faith of a child who prays straight from the heart. When I ask my children about faith, my 12-year-old son informs me that it calms you and keeps you from feeling so responsible for what happens. He says he recently prayed before a band audition and that he actually did better—tried harder because he believed prayer would help. But most adults, I think, aspire to a steady faith that has less to do with bargaining than with a limitless reliance and constancy—a faith that is always present and that allows us to face whatever happens with bravery and grace. But we often fall short.

The presence of faith is something we notice and admire, even envy, in others. It is impossible not to be struck by the faith that kept Mother Teresa laboring past the ordinary limits of human strength in the streets of Calcutta. And when we read the Bible or the writings of the saints, faith seems so tangible, concrete, and essential, like some vitamin everyone knows is required for basic nutrition. When we feel the workings of faith, it’s almost as clear and as sharp as that. These blessed moments may come at the least expected time: during a good meal with friends and family or a stroll in the fresh-fallen snow or in the garden, when I feel that all is well in the world.

Perhaps it’s a natural human instinct, like hunger or thirst or survival. Perhaps we’re born with that need for faith, for belief and reassurance, that desire for something to help us make it through the day, to hover over us in the delivery room, to stand by us at the gravesite, to keep us patient when the babies cry, and brave the chatty at the dentist. In the words of Betty Eadie, author of *Embraced by the Light*; “Remember, faith, unlike hope, is an action word. To develop it, you must exercise it regularly.”

## The Final Word

**Decisions: Psalm 25:4** – *“Show me the path where I should walk, O Lord; point out the right road for me to follow.....”*

The psalmist expressed his desire for guidance. How do we receive God's guidance? We must desire to be guided by God, and we must ask for direction. We need to regularly look for God's direction in his Word, the Bible. By reading it and constantly learning from it, we will gain the wisdom to perceive God's direction for our lives.

NLT-GEZ

St. Ann's Episcopal Church  
P. O. Box 22  
Afton, New York 13730

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR  
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY  
AND ACTION

**Clergy:** The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here

