



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

"A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ"

Newsletter

April 21 and 28, 2019

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A Message of Comfort Before the Passion of Our Lord

Do we sin if we express anger at God? Are our verbal expressions of anger and sorrow a sign of lack of faith in the Lord? Are we being ungrateful when we express how isolated and abandoned by God we feel at times? The answer to these questions is a resounding "No!" All we need to do is look at the Biblical evidence to see a God who is deeply in love with humanity and who suffers with us when we groan under the weight of our fragile humanity. God in his infinite love and mercy has given us the Biblical language of Lament as a vehicle through which we can express our sorrow and our pain. We see David loudly lamenting the death of Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1:17), and the Psalmists asking God, "Record my lament; list my tears on your scroll - are they not in your record?" (Psalm 56:7-8); complaining, "For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears because of your great wrath, for you have taken me up and thrown me aside. My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass" (Psalm 102:9-10), and exclaiming, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1). We see Job exclaiming, "I am innocent, but God denies me justice. Although I am right, I am considered a liar; although I am guiltless, his arrow inflicts an incurable wound" (Job 34:4-5). We see Jesus himself taking on the cry of Psalm 22, quoted above, as he hung from the cross for our redemption, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45). These are just a few of the hundreds of examples that Holy Scripture gives us of great heroes of the faith verbally complaining to the Lord and verbally expressing their frustration, and even their anger.

Our God loves us so deeply that he does not cringe and back away from us when we experience moments of raw humanity. There is nothing that can make the Lord abandon us or leave us. How can a mother forget her nursing child? How can a loving father not protect his grieving child? Even if they could, our God would never forget or abandon us. How can He, who out of great love for humanity sent his only Son to our world for us, abandon the objects of his redemptive rescue mission? How can God be so small that he would feel threatened or angered by our human laments? Just the opposite, God grieves with us in his own lament for us. Like a mother at the bedside of an ill child, God longs for the day when humanity will be restored to its original design. God longs for our restoration, as he knows that our humanity is disordered and our frail bodies are subjected daily to the tyrannical and capricious assaults of our mortality: assaults like aging, physical and emotional pain, and, of course, death.

I have heard often at funerals how, "God must have wanted him, to take him at such an early age", or "God must have needed another angel", or "God must have wanted her company." I believe these statements to be generally true and I am fully aware of the great comfort implicit in these expressions. God wants all of us to experi-

ence the full redemption and restoration he has in store for all who believe in him. But, we must remember that God does not purposely and capriciously afflict us with suffering, pain, and death. Death is the result of our fragile humanity: We are here for a season and then our bodies age and die. For some, death is the result of accidental events that are shockingly unexpected. For others death is the result of humanity's inhumanity to humanity, as in the case of the victims of violence, genocide, and repression.

Rather than believing God causes our death, I chose to believe that God, in his infinite mercy, redeems this great tragedy and uses it for our eternal benefit. God waits at the other side for those who, having gone through the "great tribulation" of death, are ready to enjoy the eternal blessings set aside for those who believe in Christ.

In the mean time, what do we do with our grief? (A) We talk it out. There is great healing in the telling of our story, and we celebrate together the great blessings our departed brothers and sisters left us. (B) We support each other, and we especially support the families and close friends of our departed brothers and sisters. We lift them up in prayer and become a source of comfort to them at this difficult time in their life. (C) We allow ourselves to grieve. There is a tendency to fill our lives with activity as a way to numb the pain we feel. We must fight against this tendency and must allow ourselves to grieve properly, knowing that our Lord will give us healing in due time. And, (D) We continue to do the work our Lord has given us to do, ever mindful of and grateful for the legacy our departed friends have left us. Above all, we continue to pray for us, our families, our community, and our church.

May God continue to bless you all,

Fr. Roldan+



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 18:

- Holy Eucharist and Washing of Feet at 7:00 p.m. at Grace
- Vigil at the Altar of Repose begins at 8:15 p.m. in Jackson Hall.
- Cleaning of the Church by the Youth Group begins at 8:00 p.m., followed by fun activity at the Golsan House.

Good Friday, April 19:

- Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at 9 a.m. at the West Feliciana Parish Courthouse.
- Passion of our Lord Service at 12:00 Noon.

Saturday of Holy Week, April 20:

- Great Vigil of Easter at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 21:

- Holy Eucharist at 7:30 at St. John's Chapel
- Holy Eucharist at 7:30 and 10:00 a.m. at Grace Church
- Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service, followed by the Blessing of Jackson Hall and dessert reception.

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members who are ill.

Brianna Blanchard,
Diane Christopher,
Neal Kelly, Jason Kennedy, Charlotte Maxwell, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Kay Tengler, Mary Thompson, Wendell Wade, Pam Willson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Pam Willson-April 21
Matthew Skaggs, Kevin Wilson, John Moss-April 22; Chris Roldan, Bryan McClendon-April 23; Zachary Skaggs, Martha Singer-April 24; Troy Ballard-April 25; Robert C. Daniel, James Cunningham-April 28; Houston Lee Howell-April 29; Rob Barrow, Tom Morris-April 30; Michelle Roth, Donald Norwood, Cynthia Strauch-May 1; Matthew Morris-May 2; Tommy Robinson-May 3; Chloe Adams, Jason Kennedy, Jesse Means, April LaCroix,-May 4

Wedding Anniversaries

Hunter and Whitney Floyd-April 21; Jason and Alyson Bell-April 24; Tiger and Brandie Olsen-April 25; Caroline and Robert Colvin-April 28; Chris and Alicia Dwyer-April 30. Kelly and Kathryn Ward; Greg and Sarah Feirn; Andy and Elizabeth Wooten-May 2

Grace News & Upcoming Events

**Other persons
prayers are asked
for:**

Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Nancy Bowman, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Mason Brudewick, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Daryn Conrad, Rob Cox, Frances Woods Curry, Sandy Davenport, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Ellen Ewald, Sara Fahey, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Jody Lemoine, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Elizabeth Poole, Susanna Prescott, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Gwin Shanks, Kaitlyn Shockley, Rusty Snyder, Cade Stapleton, Angel Thompson, Roland Touns, Deborah Vines, Emily Walz, Trey Watson, Dennisia Williams, Grayson Zeringue, Lynn Zinn.

**Those serving in the
armed forces:**

Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Polly Finley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragusa, Christopher Willis, Aaron Zuccaro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Congratulations to Lorna Klein and Zachary Sinclair who were married on Saturday, April 13th.

Please keep Meg Bankston and Drew Nordgren in your prayers as they will be married on April 27th.

The Church offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 19th and Easter Monday, April 22nd.

On Good Friday, April 19th, we will join with the Methodist and Catholic churches to host an Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at 9 a.m. in front of the St. Francisville United Methodist Church.

Grace Church will be participating in the Good Friday Offering to support the four dioceses in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Funds are used to promote peace and mutual understanding through pastoral care, health care, and educational programs throughout the region. Please make checks payable to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and put Good Friday Offering in the memo line.

The cross will be ready for the children's flowers Easter Sunday. All children are invited to bring a couple fresh cut flowers to put on the cross at the 10 o'clock service.

The Easter Egg Hunt is immediately after the 10 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 21st. It is open to all children through 5th grade. Please provide one dozen, dyed hardboiled eggs per child with their age on the box. Drop the eggs off to Jackson Hall by 9:45 a.m. on Sunday.

Join us Easter Sunday, April 21st, for the blessing of Jackson Hall. Cannon Shannon Manning will join us to bless and officially reopen Jackson Hall on Easter Sunday. The blessing will follow the Easter Egg Hunt and a dessert reception will follow.

To the Graduating Class of 2019: A Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Lindsay Paige Weller in 2003. She was a graduate of West Feliciana High School, class of 2002. A scholarship is given to a graduating senior who attends Grace Episcopal Church. If you are interested in applying for the scholarship; write a **brief** essay about your plans for a higher education and your involvement at Grace Church. The information can be emailed to maryweller@bellsouth.net or dropped off at the church office. The last date to apply for the scholarship is April 25th, 2019.

The Seeker and Sages Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 30th at 6 p.m. at the home of Coco Treppendahl, 12285 Hwy 965. We will be discussing the book *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. Please email Coco Treppendahl at cocotrepp@bellsouth.net to reserve your spot!

We will be recognizing and celebrating our graduating seniors on Sunday, May 5th at the 10 a.m. Eucharist with a special coffee hour to follow.

The Over 50's Club will be dining at the El Magey Mexican Buffet on Sunday, May 5th. They will leave following the Senior Recognition Coffee Hour. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please contact Maria Gerry if you have questions.

Learn s'more about Grace's Youth Group! They will be hosting an open house for all interested youth entering 6th–12th grade for the 2019-2020 school year and their parents on Wednesday, May 8th from 5–7 p.m. Come find out what youth group is all about! Please reach out to Alyssa Louis for more information, youth@gracechurchwfp.org.

Pentecost Sunday is June 9th. This year we are going to have a pot-luck lunch here in Jackson Hall following the 10am service. Grace Church will furnish the meat; please bring a dish to share. There will be lots of games and activities for the children to do. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday April 21, 2019—Easter Sunday

Acolytes: Karina Mulkey, Clara Jane Hughes, Lilly Higgins, Wyatt Olsen
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Carol Stamey
10 a.m.: Brandie Olsen, Joey Gammill
Ushers: Tiger Olsen, Kelly Ward, Carl Fontenot, Tony Horn
Lectors: Justin Peno, Karen Snyder
Vestry Rep: David Treppendahl
Altar Guild: Team 3
Children's Church: Carlin Kendrick & Richard Kendrick
Altar Flowers: Easter Lilies
Sanctuary Candle: Carolyn Douglas
Coffee Hour: Jackson Hall Blessing Reception
Babysitters: Emma Olsen, Shiloh Felton

Sunday April 28, 2019

Acolytes: Mary Barrow, R.E. Barrow, Cecile Means, Jesse Means
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: S. Gauthier/C. Stevens
10 a.m.: Landon Anderson, Rucker Leake
Ushers: Zed Howell, Richard Kendrick
Lectors: Glenn Thomas, Trish Toburen
Vestry Rep: Leslie Daniel
Children's Church: Alyssa Louis
Altar Guild 4
Altar Flowers: Bankson/Nordgren Wedding
Sanctuary Candle: Betty and Charles Sessions
Coffee Hour: Meg and Richard Kendrick
Babysitters: Angelina Hardin, Madison Pollet

April 21, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
at St. John's & Grace
8:45 a.m. Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

April 28, 2019

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
8:45 a.m. Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 21

7:30am - Eucharist at St. John's & Grace
8:45am - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, April 24

5 - 7pm - Youth Group
5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, April 25

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, April 26

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, April 28

7:30am - Eucharist
8:45am - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, May 1

5 - 7pm - Youth Group
5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, May 2

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, May 3

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study