



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

Vol. 58 No. 3 March 2023 Easter

Worship

Sundays

Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II with music, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays

Eucharist with Healing, Noon

Compline

Tuesdays, and Fridays, 7:00 p.m. online

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services on Next Page

From Our Rector

Dear St. Raphaelites and Friends!

I'm writing this before Holy week and the journey of the Triduum through to Easter Sunday, the feast of Christ's resurrection, has not yet happened! I learnt in Durham last year that the Venerable Bede, whose remains are in Durham Cathedral, wrote that the word Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess, *Eostre*, and was applied to the principal Christian festival of the year. Faith in Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday or third day following his crucifixion is at the heart of Christian belief around the world, but in the northern hemisphere, the experience of springtime is set next to the ancient stories of deliverance and the proclamation of the risen Christ. Easter occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after the vernal equinox, always falling between Mar. 22 and Apr. 25. We follow Jewish custom by beginning the feast at sunset on Easter Eve with the Great Vigil of Easter. I encourage you all to participate as far as



Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering

you are able in Holy Week. I know that to treat those days as a pilgrimage towards the joy of the resurrection can be so encouraging and enlightening for our life and faith.

But then there is the 50 Days of the Easter Season. In South Africa, I came across the *Via Lucis*, the Stations of Light. This is a spiritual journey with Jesus that takes us through 14 of the events of his post-resurrection life on earth from all four of the Gospels. It is a path of transforming joy, almost like the Stations of the Cross with the Spirit of Life illuminating the Way differently. They say that these stations were discovered in the Catacombs of St. Callistus in Rome, and particularly suited to use during the weekdays of the Easter Octave (the week following Easter Sunday, that the Eastern Church calls "Bright Week"), and throughout the Easter Season. Although known as a spiritual practice from the 1st century, it has been gathered into a new devotion in recent decades,

From Our Rector, continued

beginning with the story of the Resurrection and following through to Pentecost. I have some small guides to the *Via Lucis* if any of you are interested to do more than follow the lectionary readings of the season and Sunday sermons during the Easter Season.

Why intentionally follow a practice of prayer and meditation during any of our Church seasons? Because it is a clear way to honor Jesus' call to follow him. Each season of our church calendar has a depth of learning for us, whether we have attended church our whole lives or just a few weeks. Faith is dynamic, the Spirit of God is at work in the world, new insights keep our love for our neighbors and enemies alive in us. Contemplative prayer lives that follow the church seasons can steady and balance us, rather than simply focus us on national holiday & Hallmark celebrations. We can come to see those holidays as spiritual markers for our lives. Times to enjoy peace and happiness, love and friendship, family bonds, compassion, respect for one another and for the Sacred. Maybe opening ourselves to new journeys like those which the church seasons offer us may awaken us to blessing, gratitude, a new vision of ourselves and possibly even imagine a new way of being in the world.

And maybe that's what we and the whole world need right now!

With love,

Rev Helen

Holy Week & Easter Services

April 2 Palm Sunday: 8:30 am (spoken) and 11:00 am (with music)

April 3 Monday in Holy Week: Eucharist (spoken) Noon

April 4 Tuesday in Holy Week: Eucharist (spoken) Noon

April 5 Wednesday in Holy Week: Eucharist (spoken) Noon

April 6 Maundy Thursday: Eucharist (with music) 6:30 pm

April 7 Good Friday: Stations of the Cross Noon
Good Friday Service 6:30 pm

April 8 Easter Vigil: Service (with music) 6:30 pm

April 9 Easter: Sunrise service outdoors (spoken) 7:30 am
Eucharist (spoken) 8:30 am
Eucharist (with music) 11 am
Bilingual Eucharist (with music) 1 pm

Senior Warden's Corner

We are nearing Holy Week and Easter, the time when we hear the essential story of our faith, Jesus' last days, entering Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the crucifixion and resurrection. We've heard it before. Why do we need to hear it again? Because great stories deserve to be told and heard repeatedly. In the times when writing and reading was rare, stories were kept alive through oral tradition. These days we are bombarded with more stories than we can handle. How can you make this familiar Easter story fresh? Here are a few ideas:



Amy Smereck

Change which services you attend and attend more of them. On Palm Sunday the whole of Holy Week is crammed into one service. Try to take in more Holy Week services so you get a fuller picture with more detail. Try Maundy Thursday, Stations of the Cross, Good Friday. Walk through Tobit's Trace following the Stations of the Cross we have online any time that fits your schedule. <https://sreclex.org/tobits-trace/explore-tracks>

Lean into the readings. In the Episcopal three-year lectionary cycle we hear the same Gospel readings every three years. This year, Year A, we are hearing the story from Matthew's Gospel. Last year we heard from Luke's. How are they different? Cultivate curiosity. Explore our lectionary at lectionarypage.net.

Try to get into the minds of those who played a role in the story. How would you feel about taking the donkey and colt for the Lord? Imagine being amid the crowd crying for Jesus' crucifixion. What might that have been like?

Welcome newcomers. Many who have stopped attending church are called back to practicing their faith during Holy Week and Easter. Some may be new to our church, to the Episcopal Church, or may never have been in a church. Watch for new faces and offer help finding the Book of Common Prayer, knowing when to stand or sit, or finding the restroom.

Get involved in the life of St. Raphael's. Sign up for Dinner Groups, plan to attend Dinner Church, and/or Sages and Friends. Attend a committee meeting. Teach young people, help old people, join the choir, arrange flowers, help prepare the altar for worship. Learn about opportunities when you subscribe to the Eminders at sreclex.org, or talk to Rev. Helen for help finding ways you can offer your interests and talents in service to God at St. Raphael's.

—Amy

From the Junior Warden

New Building Use Guidelines and Agreements

Our building is in ministry with a growing number of community groups using our building. The Properties Committee and Vestry felt it was time to review and update St. Raphael's wedding policy and building use agreements, which had not been revised since 2015.



Laurie Daugherty

Under the new guidelines, all persons (both members and non-members) using the building and property of St. Raphael's must receive permission and have their meeting or event placed on the church event calendar. Here are the steps for getting on the church event calendar:

1. Contact the Church office to check availability.
2. St. Raphael's committees, ministries and mission uses can be automatically placed on the event calendar without a signed written agreement. For example, a Sage and Friends gathering or a youth group social event does not require an agreement.
3. If the use is a wedding or funeral, the office will schedule a time to meet with Rev. Helen.
4. For all other uses (whether by a member or outside person/group), the office will schedule a time to meet to discuss the request and go over the building use policy. Once the use is approved by Rev. Helen, the office will send an agreement for signature.
5. When the signed building use agreement is returned and any required deposit is received, the use will be placed on the church event calendar.

All uses (other than St. Raphael's committee, ministry and mission meetings and uses) will require a signed building use agreement even if no rental fee is to be paid. This includes all private meetings and events sponsored or held by a member. Questions or concerns about requested uses and agreements should be directed to the Jr. Warden and Property Committee.

—Laurie

Please continue to support St. Raphael Episcopal Church.

We use Engage for online giving. To access Engage and set up your user account, please click [here](#). You can also access the page via the menu on our website at sreclex.org

Music—Alive and Live

The Kentuckians are coming to St. Raphael's on Saturday, May 20, at 4 pm. There will be a wine and cheese reception in Parish Hall following the program. Kris Olson, who was a bass vocal scholar in our choir for several years, is the Director of The Kentuckians. You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear the men sing and to see Kris again. A free will donation will be accepted at the door.



Clif Cason

Moving on to another topic altogether, Rev. Helen asked in a recent weekly meeting what worship means to me. I answered that for me, worship is the anticipation of the unknown, something I cannot explain or put into words. When those unknown moments occur, they are unlike any other experience in the entire universe. Allow me to make that point again: *In the entire universe.*

Climbing a mountain for a scenic view is exhilarating. Hearing waves crash on a beach are soothing. Birds returning with their songs in the Spring can warm our hearts after cold winters.

Worship can also be exhilarating, soothing, warming and more - maybe not week to week, maybe not once a month, maybe less frequently, maybe more frequently. Those unknown moments will happen in the most unexpected times.

As much time as Rev. Helen and I spend in putting worship together, there are aspects of the service for which we have no control. When something unexpected happens, you could call that the Holy Spirit moving within the gathered body. Those moments are indescribable. There is a sense that everyone else is experiencing the same feeling too.

I am thankful we have our services available on YouTube and the church's Facebook website. I was in the hospital one Sunday morning and turned on my phone to watch our service. It was during Communion and I have to admit, it brought a lump to my throat. I know, too, our live feeds go out for those who cannot attend for a variety of reasons.

For those of us who can participate in live worship, there is nothing to compare it to. What I am getting to is this: We need you back, sitting in the pews, praying, singing, participating in the responses and service songs. We need you back so that when visitors come to worship, they see a vital worshipping community. And if you come to worship, be ready to experience something like none other *in the entire universe.*

—Clif

Editor's Note: Kudos to Clif as impresario, conductor, and performer at a spectacular Bach Marathon! I look forward to next year.

Greetings St. Raphaelites!

St. Raphael is introducing a new opportunity for fun and fellowship. We are launching a program of dinners for six or eight people. Get to know those in the pews around us in a new and more personal setting. You can sign up to participate (on line and on the easel in the foyer) between now and Easter Sunday. When we know who is interested, we'll divide you into groups, establish a point person, and then each group can decide how they want to do dinner—in homes, at a restaurant, or even cooking a meal together at the church. Who knows what lovely and lasting relationships could develop from this? Give it a try.

Signup online at <https://sreclex.org/dinner-groups/>. QR code on the last page.

A View from the Pew

This is the first of a series of columns on the history of St. Raphael's. It will not be in chronological order but let's start at the beginning: 1962.



Dr. Page (right) at first groundbreaking

Every great undertaking begins as an idea, and in a church, that idea typically belongs to a bishop. St. Raphael's began in the mind of the Rt. Rev. William R. Moody, Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington (1945-1971). Bishop Moody had a vision of new churches around Lexington named for the archangels. In the 1960s, rapid growth in Lexington was on the southside, where shopping centers and subdivisions were being built. The Bishop had established St. Michael's east of Nicholasville Road in 1955, and now, in 1962, he was ready to start St. Raphael's (that's how we got our name) in southwest Lexington. To assist him, the Bishop called on two good friends: Garvice Kincaid and Dr. Willard D. Page. A new church needs money. Kincaid was the leading financier of the day. Dr. Page was head of the Kentucky Council of Churches and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at the Episcopal Seminary in Lexington. He was the man Moody wanted to be the priest of St. Raphael's, but first he had to be ordained in the Episcopal Church (he was ordained in the Presbyterian Church). Dr. Page (he was never called Father Willard)

deserves a column to himself and will have one later.

A View from the Pew (continued)

An Episcopal church isn't born in a day. There's a process. First 12 adults had to sign a charter. Four of them were Gaitskills: Kent, Sonya and Kent's parents Melvin and Dorothy. Others were Pat and Wilgus Dinsmore, Charles and Evelyn Tarkington, Don Miller, Barbara Miller, Jo and James Wilhite, and Paul and Geraldine Richards. Will you be surprised to know that the first thing they did was have a potluck? The first service was Morning Prayer, held May 6 in the James Lane Allen Elementary School gym. Only a priest could celebrate the Eucharist but in the 60s it wasn't the custom to have a Eucharistic service every Sunday. Morning Prayer was the norm and could be led by some of Dr. Page's seminarians—George Kershaw, Donnell White, and William Thomas Dalton—with occasional visiting priests. Dr. Page was ordained in January 1964.

In May 1962 the Diocesan Convention recognized St. Raphael's as an "unorganized mission." Two years later the Convention recognized us as an "organized mission." It wasn't until 1971 that St. Raphael's achieved the status of a self-supporting parish, but meanwhile in 1965 the church had moved out of the school gym into a new building on Parkers Mill Road. That's a story for another day.

--Rose Canon

BUILD

St. Raphael's Justice Ministry – The Nehemiah Action – Monday, April 24th, 7:00 pm

On Monday, April 24th, the Nehemiah Action will be held at Central Bank Center. This is the most important event on the BUILD calendar. The Action is where hundreds gather to ask public officials if they will commit to funding proven solutions to problems in our community. At the Action our BUILD leaders will share testimonies, report on valuable research, engage local officials in support of solutions to our city's most pressing issues of affordable housing, violence, and mental health/transportation. We are asking for your support by attending the Action. Our goal for St. Raphael's is 30 attendees. Meet us at church on Monday, April 24th from 5 - 6:30 for pizza. Afterwards, we'll carpool to the Central Bank Center. All are welcome - friends & family, children & adults! Contact Rev. Helen, Tim Allen, Amanda, and Diane Whorley for more information.

Rise up and BUILD!

Parish Life and Worship

April 15. The Craft Group will meet at the Church at 10 am Contact Carol Summers for details.

April 22. Daughters of the King Spring Assembly from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Ascension, Frankfort. St. Raphael's Daughters and ECW are invited to attend. The cost is \$18.00 and includes lunch. Register at the DOK website , doklexky.org by mailing the fee to our treasurer: Ann Plumber, 1000 Crystal Court, Lexington, Kentucky 40515, or register on the day of the event. Contact Diane Whorley for more information.

April 30. Dinner Church: Works of Transformation at Nathaniel Mission. Join us at 5:30 pm for a Eucharist service with Taizé music and dinner. Our speaker will be Chris Sparks, Director of Network and Development at Nathaniel Mission. Nathaniel Mission is located about 3 miles from the church on Versailles Rd. in Lexington. Chris will share the ways the Mission impacts the disadvantaged in the neighborhood and how our congregation might get involved.

May 18-28. Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians from around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus from Ascension to Pentecost Since 2016, TKC unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide and across 85 different denominations & traditions so that friends & family, neighbors & colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. St. Raphael's will again join this prayer

Prayers Requested

Long term prayer list: Hilda, Steve & Ginger, Rose, Sonya, Sarah, Tom, Annette, Kenneth & Seth, Mickie, Jim C, Sheenagh, Mary-Ann, Stacey, Hannah & Volodymr.

Currently in need of prayer: Larry, Liz, Elizabeth, Betty, Thelma and Doug, John George, Buck, Jeffrey, and Amber.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays: **Mar 31** Ron F & Mary G; **Apr 2** Isaac W; **Apr 8** Richard D; **Apr 10** Janet M; **Apr 11** Larry W; **Apr 19** Heidi H; **Apr 20** LaDonna T-G; **Apr 22** Andree R; **Apr 24** Janis R; **Apr 25** Bob M; **May 1** Ron B; **May 8** Lisa B; **May 9** Hilda F & David F; **May 18** Tim A & Rose C; **May 21** CC; **May 25** Kayla C.

Anniveraries: **Apr 2** LaDonna & Mike G; **Apr 13** Michelle & Ron B; **May 26** Bev & Bob B.

¡Todos Son Bienvenidos!

Easter Sunday Bilingual Service Domingo de Pascua Servicio Bilingue



Domingo, 9 de Abril, 1:00 p.m.

**Acompáñenos en nuestra celebración del Domingo de Pascua
(Domingo de Resurrección), con música, santa comunión, y
Huevos de Pascua para niñas y niños.**

**Join us for our Easter Sunday celebration, with music,
Holy Communion, and Easter Eggs for girls and boys.**

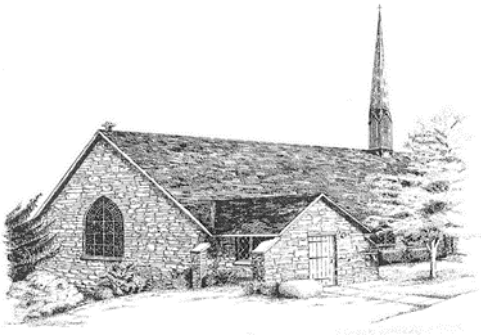


Alleluia! Christ is risen! ¡Aleluya! ¡Cristo ha resucitado!



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1891 Parkers Mill Rd
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QR Code for Dinner Program registration



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