



THE CLOAK

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

March 2018

Dear Friends,

As I write this article for the March **Cloak** we are in the second week of Lent. The Crosses are draped in purple, and we have enjoyed the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, a fun time with lots of pancake flipping participation! We also met for our first Tuesday Lent soup bread and the Good Book Club, and compared the Gospel of Luke and Acts. This week we met for a pot luck and were treated to good food, a bit of music, and little drama about the Transfiguration (our reading for the day from the Good Book Club). We will continue to look at the readings, meeting on Tuesday Evenings for soup and bread each week for the remainder of Lent.

While on the Fresh Start retreat just before Lent, I was given a book called *Sacred Space* written by the Irish Jesuits which seems pretty appropriate to mention, since St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner. The book gives us something to think and pray about each day of the week.

We also were given a meditation about the walk to Emmaus where we imagined ourselves on the road with Jesus. We have seven miles to go and then we will break bread together when we reach the city. While meditating, I did not imagine a dirt road such as the one where Jesus walked in the Holy Land, but was taken back to the English village where I spent four years living and working in the five parishes of Sowerby, Sessay, Thirkleby, Kilburn and Bagby. I imagined Jesus at my side every time I took the 7 mile journey from Kilburn to Sowerby or Sowerby to Sessay or Bagby. Usually two times each Sunday. The road is a single narrow country lane with no middle line, closely lined with hedges on both sides. I clearly could feel Jesus' presence with me that day, showing me how I was never alone on those journeys between churches where I would celebrate the Eucharist at each journey's end. It was a lovely experience to know this. To see it in my mind's eye, and to feel the joy and love of the moment.

Jesus' presence is not always obvious to us at the time, but in this meditation reflecting back I could see and know this was the case. This was a special time of growth in my life, one I will never forget and will reflect on for some time to come.

I hope you will take the time to meditate on God's word and know that Jesus is spending this time with you. The Meditation for this week is: **Bringing us Light**. If we take time to focus our minds on Jesus, the Holy Spirit will enlighten us with her presence and shine on what we need to look at in our lives. We will be supported and loved in this moment, and given help to see what needs our attention, strength and courage for working on what might need changing in our lives -- habits, behaviors, attitudes, anxieties. Looking at ourselves in the Light of Christ with loving eyes.

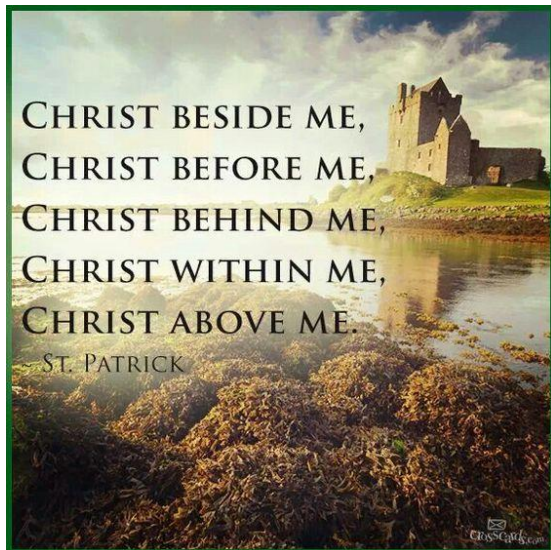
Wishing you a happy St. Patrick's Day and many blessings on the road of your Lenten journey to Easter,

Blessings and Peace, Rev. Melodie+

This year we have been invited to share our Holy week with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Maundy Thursday at 7:00pm at their church.

On Good Friday they are invited to join us here at St. Martin's at 7:00 pm

Saint Patrick's Breastplate, also known as ***Saint Patrick's Hymn*** (see at right) is a Prayer of Protection whose original lyrics were traditionally attributed to Saint Patrick during his Irish ministry in the 5th century. In 1889 it was adapted into Hymn # 576 ***I Bind Unto Myself Today***.



“One Buck Seminary” discussion group led by Bishop Thornton meets Saturday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day, 8-9:39 AM. The reading packet or articles by Rene Girard is ready to pick up in the Parish Hall.

I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three.

I bind this day to me forever
by power of faith, Christ's in carnation
his baptism in the Jordan river,
his death on Cross for my salvation;
his bursting from the spiced tomb,
his riding up the heavenly way,
his coming at the day of doom
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the starlit heaven,
the glorious sun's life giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea
around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
God's eye to watch, God's might to stay,
God's ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach,
God's hand to guide, God's shield to ward;
the word of God to give me speech,
the heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, the One in Three,
of whom all nature hath creation,
eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;
salvation is of Christ the Lord!

Good Friday Offering

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry recommends that we consider this Good Friday Offering. The history of the Good Friday Offering reaches back to 1922 when, in the aftermath of World War I, The Episcopal Church sought to create new relationships with and among the Christians of the Middle East. From these initial efforts which focused on a combination of relief work and the improvement of ecumenical and Anglican relations, the Good Friday Offering was created.

Through the years many Episcopalians have found the Good Friday Offering to be an effective way to express their support for the ministries of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Pastoral care, education and health care continue to be primary ministries through which the reconciling spirit of the Christian faith serves all in need.

Participation in this ministry is welcome. The generous donations of Episcopalians help the Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One to be a vital and effective force for peace and understanding among all of God's children.

To make a donation to the Good Friday Offering, please write a check payable to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, write "Good Friday Offering" in the memo line, and mail to:

DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church US
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Or drop in the offering plate and we can forward your check to them.



Join us for Lent and Easter!
All are Welcome!

Tuesday Evening Good Book Club

Lenten Soup and Bread with the Good Book Club readings –
6 PM on March 6, 13, and 20

Wednesday Morning Prayers

Lenten Prayers with Rev. Melodie+ and Holy Communion
9:30 AM on March 7, 14, 21, and 28

Folding Palm Crosses Friday March 23
10 AM – We will teach you!

Palm Sunday March 25

10 AM Palm Procession, Passion Readings, and Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday Worship Service **March 29** 7 p.m.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Holy Communion and Foot Washing.
Rev. Melodie Kimball, homilist.

Vigil at the Altar of Repose at St. Martin's
Thurs night to Friday Morning; Sign up for a slot from 9 pm to 9 am

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Service
March 30; 7 pm, at St. Martin's, Rev. Joel Schmitz preacher.

Easter Sunday April 1

10 AM – Festival Mass with Flower Cross and Alleluias
Easter Egg Hunt for Children follows the service.

ECW Brief Notes:

Fun Lunch is Friday March 16 – Little Wuesten Café in Albany Meet at church parking lot at 12:30 to carpool. You can get tickets to sell for the Spring Tea.

Our next ECW meeting is Friday April 6 at 10 am for last minute planning for the High Tea Fundraiser on Sunday, April 15.

JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP
ALL ARE WELCOME



Fine food, fun, fashion & friendship
Annual High Tea

Sunday, April 15; 2 – 4 p.m.

Tickets \$15, Advance Tickets Recommended

Raise our Voices and Sing Alleluia!

Easter Choir Anthem - practice at 11:35
after church on March 11, 18, and 25



Spring Concert" Young at Heart"
Sunday April 29, 3 pm
First Assembly of God on Oak

Welcome to our wonderful new sign at the corner of Milton and Grove Streets which welcomes everyone to St. Martin's, It was given in memory of Dorania Erickson.



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

257 E. Milton Street, Lebanon, OR || 541-451-1159; Office open Tues-Fri 9-12.

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