



Burning Away the Old, Embracing the New

THE REV. DR. BILL MURRAY

We begin Lent with fire, and we end Lent with fire. We burn the palm leaves and branches from the previous Palm Sunday to prepare ashes for the Ash Wednesday service. Fire can be a powerful tool to provide light, to cook, and to burn away impurities. The idea of Lent revolves around removing impurities and sin from our lives. It makes sense that we literally clear away the old to make way for the new. Just as fire can burn away what is unnecessary or impure, so too all Christians are encouraged to examine their actions, intentions, and relationships, shedding the distractions and sins that hinder spiritual growth.

Part of that work is putting away the old. This Lent we will have the distinct pleasure of burning away part of our past. **On Sunday, March 30, we will celebrate paying off our debt with a Burning of the Mortgage Party after the 10:15 am service.** That week we will encourage everyone to write down those things that they need to leave behind in Lent. It could be literal debts, it could be sins and brokenness, it could be addiction, it could be past attitudes that have hurt others. We invite you to write down those things you might be carrying and bring them to the service. We will gather in the Memorial Garden around the large cauldron, we will say some prayers, we will burn the mortgage, and we will encourage everyone to burn those things with which God can help us.

We end the season of Lent with fire at the Easter Vigil. During this service, a fire is lit to symbolize the resurrection of Christ, a triumph over darkness and death. The lighting of the Paschal Candle from this fire signifies Christ as the "Light of the World," illuminating the path from sin and death to salvation. Through all of this we celebrate the Paschal mystery: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

So, we will light our fires this Lent very intentionally. We will put away those things that tie us to the past. We will take off the burden of debt as a church and invite you to do the same in your life. And we will celebrate that Christ calls us into new life, a profound hope, and a world illumined by resurrection.

Bill +

Lenten Series with Temple Sinai

**A SEASON IS SET
FOR EVERYTHING:
RITUALS, TRADITIONS,
AND THEOLOGY
FOR WHEN OUR
TIME COMES.**

Senior Rabbi Ron Segal and Bill Murray will teach and share the Jewish and Christian perspectives on death, dying, resurrection, grieving, celebrating, and life. Similar to past classes, the goal is to get to know our neighbors and go deeper in conversations and relationship. Please plan to come to all four classes to get to know each other better as we share refreshments, laugh, and learn together.

March 20: at Temple Sinai

March 27: at HIEC

April 3: at Temple Sinai

April 10: at HIEC

7:00 PM





Getting Our Houses in Order

THE REV. T STEWART LUCAS

As Lent approaches, I find myself looking around—at my home, my office, my calendar, my relationships—and realizing: it’s time to get things in order. Maybe you feel it too. The clutter that has slowly accumulated, the priorities that have shifted off course, the mental and spiritual weight we carry. We know that when we are not feeling grounded, something has to change. Lent is that time—a time to recenter, to clear away the distractions, and to prepare our hearts and lives for the resurrection joy of Easter.

Lent has always been a season of reordering. The forty days in the wilderness shaped Jesus for his ministry, just as our own wilderness moments shape us. It is a season of fasting—not just from food but from excess, from what no longer serves us, from habits that keep us from fully living into God’s call. It is a season of prayer—not just of words but of intention, of focus, of listening to where the Spirit is leading us. It is a season of giving—not just money but time, attention, and care to the things and people that matter most.

We see this theme of letting go throughout scripture:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

(Psalm 51:10)

“Lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”

(Hebrews 12:1)

“Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.”

(Joel 2:12-13)

This season, we as a church are also letting go. At our recent parish retreat, we reflected on what it means to cultivate community and build up one another in love. In our stewardship campaign, we asked one another to stretch, to trust, to commit. Now, as we burn our mortgage—finally freeing ourselves from that financial weight—we are reminded that true freedom comes when we are no longer bound by what holds us back. Even our rector, Bill, prepares for his sabbatical start-

ing mid-May, stepping away to renew his spirit so that he can return refreshed for the work ahead.

Lent is not just about giving things up; it is about making room. Room for God. Room for one another. Room for the new life that Easter promises. We let go not for the sake of loss, but for the sake of transformation. Because we are Easter people, and we know that the cross always precedes the empty tomb. Resurrection does not happen without first experiencing loss.

So, what do you need to release this Lent? What habits, burdens, clutter—physical or spiritual—are keeping you from the life God desires for you? What do we, as individuals, as families, as a church, and even as a country, need to reorder so that we can truly live into our call to love and serve?

This Lent, let’s get our houses in order. Not just for the sake of tidiness, but so that we are free—free to serve, free to love, free to embrace the resurrection life that awaits us on the other side of the wilderness.

May this be a holy season of recentering, renewal, and return for us all.



We have almost paid off the note from our 2012 renovation (the balance is just under \$10,000). So, it is time to celebrate this big moment. After the 10:15 service on Sunday, March 30, we will go outside to the luminarium (the big cauldron in the memorial garden) and burn the loan documents. Since it will be Lent, we encourage you to write down things you also want to be done with - and cast those burdens, sins, injuries, grudges, and worries into the fire. We will share some prayers, burn the mortgage and our burdens, and then celebrate with some “hot” themed food together.

CONNECT



The Untamed Presence of God

THE REV. RUTH PATTISON

If the language of prayer feels a little dry and dusty, try out the Tetramorph found in Ezekiel's vision by the River

Chebar, and in St. John's peek into heaven in his Revelation. The Ox, Eagle, Lion and Man, offer us tantalizing ways of praying, imagining, and coming close to the holy one in earthy, wild, creaturely, even exotic images that feed the hunger of our Lenten hearts.

In the second century, Irenaeus assigned these four faces of Ox, Eagle, Lion, and Man, each to one of the four gospels. Cathedrals and crypts the world over have featured them as facets of God ever since. From early mosaics in pavement floors of the holy land, to stained glass windows in Atlanta Georgia, art and tradition have lifted these images to ignite our imagination with thrilling nuances of the Divine Being.

For me, they inspire wonder about what face of God I need right now. Maybe I need this strong ox, a holy beast of burden, because my remorse is so heavy, I cannot take another step. What of this God who prowls the Masai Mara like a Lion, who picks up my scent on the wind, and entices me with the presence-absence rhythm of life in relationship with the Divine, keeping my distance, craving his nearness, and wearing red so I can be seen. And when do I need to mount the wings of this holy bird of prey, to carry me aloft and make a nest high on the cliffs, in the solitude of the wilderness. And this, Ezekiel's Son of Man, bespeaks a God who bears a likeness to my own self. What does it mean that God could be like me, or me like God?

Experimenting with these images for God engages our inward examination of soul, but also contemplates the Holy One in ways that might hold new, even uncomfortable, spiritual insight.

You could, should you accept this mission, keep a little journal. In it, try some things like this: trace a stained-glass window that features the image, or an icon; glue magazine pictures that get at the feeling for you of God as Ox, or let's say, Eagle, etc.; list characteristics of these different creatures, daydream about them; conduct a Bible dictionary word search for these images with cross references; try writing some collects that begin with an address to this image of God; list synonyms and imagine God that way. Jot things down. Or find a big piece of paper and produce a pencil rubbing of the images on the lectern in our chapel!

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY



CAC Lenten Practice

The Lent is described as a time of prayer and reflection, a time of fasting and almsgiving. Giving alms means donating money or goods to the poor and performing acts of charity, and this year our Outreach efforts will benefit the Community Assistance Center (CAC), and the people they serve who suffer from food insecurity.

Recently, CAC created a new program entitled "**Congregations of the Month**," and in March Holy Innocents kicks-off their program. Its purpose is to provide much-needed food for their pantry, which aligns perfectly with our Lenten focus on giving alms through collecting food items at church or shopping online to help CAC fill their pantry.

To put CAC's needs in perspective, in 2024 CAC collected 80,041 pounds of food per month, and provided 68,970 meals for their clients. Putting it into context, the weekly average for a CAC family of four is 37 pounds, which equates to \$265 per month for that family. These numbers do not include all the family's food needs; however, CAC provides families with supplemental food stuffs.

CAC faces critically high needs, and while we may not meet their entire goal, we can be a substantial contributor to their program. We ask for your help by donating food items at church or through online purchases. There will be easy volunteer opportunities at church during Lent to perform acts of charity for our less fortunate neighbors. Additional information will be available during the weeks ahead, or contact Charles Crosby at charles@corepm.net or Jan Paul at janpaul1005@gmail.com.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Through a Child's Eyes

RENEE STEPHENS

Last year for Ash Wednesday I wasn't able to get my kids to church. It was a really packed week and I just couldn't make the schedule work out. Before bed, I decided that I would at least take the time to tell them about Ash Wednesday and even burn our leftover palm leaves, make our own ashes and offer that we mark each other with the ashes as a symbol that "we are dust and to dust we will return."

I barely got through the story when Samuel, who was 5 at the time, burst into hysterical tears. "But I don't want to do that!" he said through his sobbing, and "How long are we going to be dust?" I comforted him and we talked and after a few minutes he said "I don't want a cross on my forehead, I want my ashes to say Samuel." And so, as hard as it was to write "Samuel" in ashes across his tiny little forehead, I did it and that might forever be my favorite Ash Wednesday.

Because life doesn't always go according to plan. We experience loss and death and all kinds of grief. Things that threaten to break us. Wounds that cut so deep that sometimes it's not day by day, but hour by hour that we have to pray our way through. As Christians we have the great hope of the resurrection and all the promises of Easter but it always begins with the grief of Good Friday. The silence of Holy Saturday. It's never just one or the other. Death is tied up with life.

Samuel, in his childhood innocence, wrestled with the image of the grief of death and then decided that he would stand with it using his own resurrected symbol of life. "Yes, I will take the ashes, but they will bear my name." This is what we do every time we suffer a loss. Sometimes the loss is so great that there is no other choice. Your entire world is shaken so much that the only thing left to do is to lean on the power of God. Maybe it's in those moments that we feel how the veil was torn when Jesus died. And then as we move forward, we become the beacons of Christ's healing power in the world.

Your life matters, your wounds matter, your grief is not unknown. And so, as we move into our Lenten season, you are invited to journey alongside us as we remember Christ's death and proclaim Christ's resurrection with our entire lives.



Pancake Supper March 4, 6:00-7:30 PM

On Tuesday, March 4, the youth group is hosting a pancake supper from 6:00-7:30PM in honor of Shrove Tuesday. Our wonderful Men's Group will help cook a delicious breakfast for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. All proceeds will go toward the youth group. Register online.



GLOW March 5, 6:00-7:00 PM

Let's GLOW for Ash Wednesday. Kids ages PreK- 5th grade are invited to share an hour together this lent to discover the joy of prayer and giving. After our lesson, the kids will go to the church to receive ashes. RSVP online.

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH

MARCH 4

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:00-7:30 PM

MARCH 5 | **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Service 7:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 6:00 PM

GLOW 6:00-7:00 PM

MARCH 9

Poptarts and Pajamas 9:00 AM

Youth Group 4:00-6:00 PM

MARCH 10

Reading Connections 6:00 PM

MARCH 11

Men's Dinner and a Book 6:30 PM

MARCH 13

VG Opening 6:00-7:30 PM

MARCH 16

Masterplan Meeting 9:00 AM

CCG Sandwich Build 11:15 AM

Youth Group 4:00-6:00 PM

MARCH 20

Lent Class with Temple Sinai 7:00 PM

MARCH 21

Men of HI: Third Friday 7:30 AM

MARCH 23

Youth Group: Study Hall 4:00-6:00 PM

MARCH 27

Lent Class with Temple Sinai 7:00 PM

APRIL

APRIL 3

Lent Class with Temple Sinai 7:00 PM

APRIL 6

FOMA: Song of Atlanta 4:00 PM

APRIL 10

Lent Class with Temple Sinai 7:00 PM

APRIL 13 | **PALM SUNDAY**

Potluck Brunch 8:45 AM

Children's Choir Sings 10:15 AM

Youth Group 4:00-6:00 PM

APRIL 14

Reading Connections 6:00 PM

Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM

APRIL 15

Women of the Cross 6:30 PM

APRIL 16

Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Agape Meal, Communion, & Stripping of the Altar 6:00 PM

All Night Vigil 8:00 PM-10:00 AM

GOOD FRIDAY

Liturgy of the Day with Fauré Requiem 12:00 PM

APRIL 20 | **EASTER**

Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 AM

APRIL 25-27

Men of HI Retreat

APRIL 27

Youth Group 4:00-6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE

Groups for Men & Women

Learn more | holynnocents.org/groups

READING CONNECTIONS

MARCH 10

6:00 PM | Inglett Hall C

We begin with light refreshments, and the discussion starts at 6:30. This month's reading selection is *The Happy Hour Choir*, by Sally Kilpatrick. Please note, we have moved our meeting from the large conference room by Christ's Chapel to the conference room just outside of Bishop Commons, Inglett Hall Room C. Please feel free to come and join the fun, even if you haven't read the book.

Michelle Driscoll | dris1296@yahoo.com

WOMEN'S WISDOM CIRCLE

MONDAYS

8:30 AM | Zoom

Start your week with authentic, in-depth conversation in light of the wisdom sayings throughout the ages.

Abbie Hattauer | abbiehattauer@gmail.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

FIRST TUESDAYS

7:00-8:30 PM

Open to all, the Prayer Shawl Ministry offers a chance for service to others as well as a time for socializing. The Guild of Knitters meets monthly at the church on the first Tuesdays of the month from 7:00-8:30 PM and makes prayer shawls, which are kept at the church and delivered to those who are ill or grieving.

Kathie Larkin | kathie.larkin@retired.paceacademy.org

MEN'S DINNER & A BOOK

MARCH 11

6:30 PM | Private Home

The next Men's Dinner and a Book is Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 PM and the book is *The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel* by Douglas Brunt. Davis Smith is hosting. If you would like to attend, please contact Jeremy Webber at jhwwebber@gmail.com for details. All men at Holy Innocents are included and invited.

Jeremy Webber | jhwwebber@gmail.com

THIRD FRIDAY | MEN OF HI

MARCH 21

7:30 AM | Frost Youth Center

Enjoy warm hospitality, engaging discussions, and a fresh sausage and biscuit breakfast. Come for the conversation and stay for the fellowship.

Charles Crosby | charles@corepm.net

Memorial Gifts

Received November 7 – February 19

IN MEMORY OF MICHEL KNIGHT

Carolyn Fore

IN MEMORY OF GREG PIRKLE

Linda and Tom Brown

IN MEMORY OF PAT SCHNEIDER

Pam and Marion Rivers

IN MEMORY OF DONLEY KLEIN

Pam and Marion Rivers
Sharon Klein

IN MEMORY OF EARNEST SIMMONS

Abbie Hattauer
Linda and Tom Brown
Gail and Harold Murray

IN MEMORY OF NETTIE SILVA

Carol and Craig Johns
Katherine and Anissa Gray

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ash Wednesday

March 5 | 7:30 AM, 12:00 PM, & 6:00 PM

As the solemn beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday invites us to realign our hearts with God and His calling in our lives. This service offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect, renew, and deepen our faith within our church community.

Master Plan Meeting

March 16, 9:00 AM

Our incredible architectural team from Houser Walker will come and seek feedback from the whole community on Sunday, March 16 at 9:00 AM. As we cast a vision and plan for the church through our master plan process, we hope everyone in the parish will come to one or both meetings to discuss who we are and what we value as a church!

Church of the Common Ground

March 16, 11:30 AM

HI will be packing 80+ lunches for our unhoused brothers and sisters who attend Church of the Common Ground in Woodruff Park in downtown Atlanta. Join us in Parish Hall after the 10:15 AM service to help make sandwiches and assemble lunch bags. An additional part of our outreach is to worship with the men and women of CCG at their 1:00 PM service in Woodruff Park.

Contact Robin Hickey | hickeys5040@gmail.com | churchofthecommonground.org.

Men of HI Retreat

April 25-27, 2025

The Men of Holy Innocents' will gather at Lake Logan Episcopal Center in Canton, North Carolina, near the Blue Ridge Parkway, for a weekend of spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and renewal. Set on 300 acres at 3,000 feet in elevation, Lake Logan offers comfortable lodging, dining, and gathering spaces alongside a stunning mountain lake. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday evening, followed by a Saturday morning program. Saturday afternoon is free for activities like hiking, a visit to Waynesville, golf, fishing, or relaxing on the porch. We'll wrap up on Sunday morning with Eucharist and final discussions. The Rev. Brad Whitaker, a former Holy Innocents' clergy member and recently retired Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, will lead the retreat. Brad's sessions, focused on **Finding God in Everyday Companions**, will help us explore how relationships—whether lifelong or brief—reveal God's love and presence in our lives.

Contact John Harris | harris4338@gmail.com





**HOLY INNOCENTS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

805 Mt. Vernon Hwy NW
Atlanta, GA 30327



Ash Wednesday

MARCH 5

7:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 6:00 PM