

The Epistle of St. Paul's

March 2023

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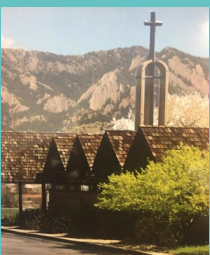
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St. Paul's United Methodist Church

4215 Grinnell Avenue
Boulder, CO 80305
303.494.0615

stpaulsboulder.com
bolderstpauls.blogspot.com
office@saintpaulsboulder.org



From The Pastor's Desk...

It's that time of year again. Time to celebrate bunnies, chocolate, chicks from the hardware store, and the start of another season of baseball. There is spring cleaning to be done, graduations and weddings to attend, and summer vacation plans to be made. Oh, and there is also something that will get a lot of attention in most churches as well – the annual bringing of lilies to adorn the chancel area of the sanctuary.

One thing you'll notice that I didn't mention in the list above is Easter. Like Christmas Eve/Day, Easter is no longer the worship festival it once was as other priorities have emerged to compete for the affections of too many Christians. Why is this? What happened that the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord has come to this?

I would offer that a significant part of the challenge facing the celebration of Easter is that we live in a finite world. There is only so much time, money, energy, and other resources to go around. Or so it would seem. In this worldview, Easter becomes just another note on the calendar and one among many activities clamoring for our attention.

And yet, Christians are not called by a finite god to experience life as a zero-sum game. Our God is extravagant, creating a universe of endless possibilities, bestowing grace upon grace to each and everyone who draws breath. We are not a people limited by anything in this life or in the life to come.

In a podcast interview for UMC.org's *Get Your Spirit in Shape*, noted United Methodist scholar Paul Chilcote says, "Death seems to be a final word in the life of every human being. Seems to be, I say, a final word, because it isn't. The final word is life, not death. The final word is resurrection. The final word is eternal life with God who loves us."

Our faith, summed up in the expression "Jesus Christ is Lord," is contained in the Christmas and Easter observances. From the very beginning of the Christian movement, the message has been that God is with us both in life and in death.

As we gather for worship on Easter morning we will sing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" and together celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and with it the good news that life is stronger than death. As believers who live and work in the world today, we add our voices to the songs of triumph of the resurrection and invite the world around us to share in the ever present unfolding of life that is God's offering to all through Jesus.

Every blessing, Pastor Charles

Holy Week Services

We will not be holding Holy Week weekday services this year because of the decline in attendance for mid-week worship services at St. Paul's. You are invited to view the list on the April 3 blog post of area UMC churches that are offering Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services.

Easter at St. Paul's

This year we will once again celebrate Easter Sunday with the Boulder Beautiful Korean Church. This joint service will be held at our regular time of 10:15 AM both in person and via Zoom.

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, April 6, at 11:45 a.m. at Old Santa Fe Mexican Grille (592 McCaslin Blvd., Louisville). **Please R.S.V.P. before April 4** to Sally Owen (srpowen@gmail.com / 303-909-0651).

Breakfast Fellowship will next meet on Saturday, April 8, at 8:00 a.m. at Le Peep (2525 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder, next to McGuckin's hardware). **This is a new location.** No reservations necessary. All are welcome!

Sew What will meet on **Friday, April 21**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Louise Cook's home. Please R.S.V.P. by April 18 to Joan via email or phone call (louisecook916@gmail.com / 303-859-9327). Note: Folks are encouraged to bring their own lunches/preferred drinks. Some drinks will be provided. Sew What is for those who love to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and/or enjoy visiting with one another.

Please make the following **correction to your 2023 church directory**:
Madelyn (Lyn) Nold, 2972 S. Otis Street, Denver, CO 90227-3530

St. Paul's UMC welcomes and affirms people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

Hymn for Easter-Day

By Charles Wesley

“Christ the Lord is ris’n to day,”
Sons of men and angels say,
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing ye heav’ns, and earth reply.

Love’s redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won,
Lo! Our sun's eclipse is o’er,
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell!
Death in vain forbids his rise:
Christ has open’d paradise!

Lives again our glorious King,
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once he all doth save,
Where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now, where Christ has led?
Following our exalted head,
Made like him, like him we rise,
Ours the cross—the grave—the skies!

What tho’ once we perish’d all,
Partners in our parent’s fall?
Second life we all receive,
In our heav’nly Adam live.

Ris’n with him, we upward move,
Still we seek the things above,
Still pursue, and kiss the Son
Seated on his Father’s throne;

Scarce on earth a thought bestow,
Dead to all we leave below,
Heav’n our aim, and lov’d abode,

Hid our life with Christ in God!

Hid; till Christ our life appear,
Glorious in his members here:
Join’d to him, we then shall shine
All immortal, all divine!

Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n!
Praise to thee by both be giv’n:
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail the resurrection thou!

King of Glory, soul of bliss,
Everlasting life is this,
Thee to know, thy pow’r to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love!

From *Hymns and Sacred Poems*. London:
Strahan, 1739.



Thank you to everyone who supported the Fairview High School Knight’s Closet and EFFA food drives in March. It is remarkable that our little church could support *two* food drives in one month! Your generosity is a blessing to our community.

April Birthdays

4-3 Rebecca Glancy
4-3 Judy Waller
4-3 Caroline Wayland
4-10 Gerald Browning
4-15 Larry Esposito
4-19 John Courier
4-22 Sandra Jordan
4-26 Christina Pulaski
4-27 Mawce Glancy



APRIL PREACHING SCHEDULE

April 2 / Palm-Passion Sunday / Communion

"There's nothing left to say"

Matthew 26:14-27:66, Genesis 12:1-4a

April 9 / Easter (Service with BBKC)

"The response"

Matthew 28:1-10

April 16 / Rebecca Glancy preaching

April 23

"The story isn't finished"

Acts 12:14a, 36-41, Luke 24:13-35

April 30

"Devotion 101"

John 10:1-10, Acts 2:42-47

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