



# Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

Serving Individuals and Families of the Concho Valley with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ!

## AGNUS DEI

April 2022

*"I will make  
them and  
the places  
surrounding my  
hill a blessing. I  
will send down  
showers in  
season; there  
will be showers  
of blessing."*

*(Ezekiel 34:26 ESV)*

### APRIL SHOWERS

"I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they will be showers of blessing" (Ezek. 34:26, ESV).

We pray for rain. At our retreat at the Greathouse in Junction if we don't pray for rain, you go to the end of the line to eat. We need rain. We are now praying for rain in our services every week. The small bit of rain we received has begun to bring a little life to the vegetation. But—we need more than a sprinkle. Even more than a need for H<sub>2</sub>O, we need spiritual rain. We need the cleansing work of the Word and Spirit to refresh our lives, families, parishes, and country. Our souls are parched for the living God. Just as Jesus told the woman at the well (John 4), we need living water. Without this living water our faith slowly becomes meaningless ritual and empty prayers.

We were created to have life, abundant life. Life in Jesus led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. For Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd, we have that hope. The hope that is rediscovered every Easter. We pass through Holy Week, the cross, before we get to the empty tomb and the victory of Easter. At night, you can see the light on the new cross next to the church, highlighting the painful sacrifice Jesus made for us. The cross is also barren in the sense that the story does not end there. The image of the cross is not complete without the image of the empty tomb.

As we approach Holy Week, we need a spiritual reset. The wonderful retreat many of us experienced together refreshed our spirits. The weather was great and the nights were clear. The fellowship was invigorating and the food wonderful. The scenery and the rides were vivid and sometimes exciting—just ask my wife Debbie about excitement on the trail. The view overlooking the South Llano river reminded us of the splendor of God's creation. The epic story how God transformed the ranch to a Christian retreat center reminded us of the miraculous nature of God's provision and the faithfulness of God's servants. God is still moving in our time.

We want, need, and desire this movement within us. It's not enough to read stories of what God has done in the past. We yearn to be a part of what only God can do in our hearts and lives. This month we will see this faith in action. On the 23d, we will pay tribute to the work of God in the life of Rick Smith. Most of us have seen first-hand the loving devotion his wife, our Rev. June, gave him the last years of their lives together. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, The Rev. Dr. June will lead us in Word and Sacrament as we celebrate together in worship. Her

*(continued)*

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presence, and her spiritual investment in our lives has and remains an inspiration to us. We are blessed to have her lead our service and refresh our spirit as a congregation.

A week earlier, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The flowers in our hands, hearts, and near the altar will remind us of new beginnings and the joy of re-experiencing the victory of Jesus over sin and death! Let us fully experience April showers of blessings that will bring May flowers of hope.

I am grateful the Lord allows me to be your Rector. I love our parish and I love you!!!




## PALM CROSSES

**Friday, April 8th at 5:00pm** you are invited to help strip palms for the crosses we wear on our lapels on Palm Sunday.

**Saturday, April 9th @ 9:00am** we will meet to make the palm crosses.

All are welcome to help, it is a fun time!



**TAIZÉ SERVICE**  
SONG | SILENCE | CONTEMPLATION

## Please join us at 6:00pm Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 for our Taizé Worship Service



## RESURRECTION SUNDAY April 17, 2022

8:00 AM ~ Sunrise Easter Service  
9:00 AM - Continental Breakfast in the Parish Hall  
9:30 AM ~ Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
10:30 AM - Festival Holy Eucharist  
12:00 PM—Church Family Photo Shoot



## EASTER EGG HUNT

**Bring your Easter basket for our Children's Easter Egg Hunt as we celebrate ~NEW LIFE IN JESUS~**

It will take place in the field beside the church Easter Sunday, April 17th at 9:30am. The breakfast is at 9am Easter Sunday Morning in the fellowship Hall. The children will be picked up at 9:30am to leave for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Of course the parents and grandparents and friends can also come with us at that time. Any and all are welcome to come observe or help.

## CHURCH WIDE PHOTO SHOOT

On **Easter Sunday, April 17** we will take a group photo of church members immediately following the 10:30 AM Service.

# HOLY WEEK



### **Palm Sunday ~ April 10, 2022**

10:30 AM  
6:00 PM

Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist  
Taize Worship Service

### **Wednesday ~ April 13, 2022**

4:00 PM  
6:00 PM

Hebrews Bible Study on Facebook Live  
The "The New Testament in It's World" Bible Study,  
Corporate Prayer & Holy Communion

### **Maundy Thursday ~ April 14, 2022**

6:00 PM

The Washing of Feet, The Holy Eucharist,  
and The Stripping of the Altar

### **Good Friday ~ April 15, 2022**

*Church Office Closed*

12-3:00 PM  
6:00 PM

Prayer Vigil in the Nave  
Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death

### **Resurrection Sunday ~ April 17, 2022**

8:00 AM  
9-10:00 AM  
9:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
12:00 PM

Easter Sunrise Service in the Field Beside the Church  
Easter Continental Breakfast in the Parish Hall  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
Resurrection Sunday Holy Eucharist  
Church Family Photo Shoot



We have a wonderful opportunity to beautify the sanctuary for the Easter celebration by contributing to the Easter Flower Fund. There are envelopes and forms available in the Narthex. Just fill in your name, the name(s) you wish the contribution to be in memory or honor, insert whatever amount of contribution you would like to make and drop the envelope in the collection plate or at the office.

## WEEKLY PLATE OFFERINGS SCHEDULE

1st Sunday of the month: Discretionary Fund

2nd Sunday of the month: PHC

3rd Sunday of the month: La Gran Familia

4th Sunday of the month: Casa Bethesda

5th Sunday of the month: Meals for the Elderly

### **CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR RICK SMITH ~ SATURDAY, APRIL 23**

Rick's Celebration of Life will be held at the International Waterlily Garden, 2 S. Park Street at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 23 with a reception following at The Chicken Farm Art Center, 2505 Martin Luther King Dr., San Angelo. Please rsvp to let us know if you think you will attend so we can plan well at <https://Everloved.com/life-of/rick-smith-silverton-oregon/obituary>.

We need a few people to provide a gluten-free or dairy-free side or dessert for the Chicken Farm lunch. If you would like to help out, please take your dish to the Chicken Farm the day of the service.

If you have any questions, please call the church office.

### **RECEPTION AND FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON WITH REV. JUNE**

Sunday, April 24th Rev. June will lead us in worship. Following that 10:30am service we will gather in the Parish Hall for a Reception and Fellowship Luncheon. The church will provide a variety of Italian entrees and we are asking you to bring salads and desserts. Gluten-free and dairy-free options are needed.

## **THE APRIL 2022 VESTRY MEETING**

The regular monthly Vestry meeting will be held the  
**April 25, 2022 at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall.**



A HUGE thank you to Heath and Stacy Belk for the beautiful crosses erected here at Good Shepherd and at the Great House. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped with this project.

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10*



## LENT: A CALL TO ACTION IN FAITH

Today's headlines of war in Ukraine, economic uncertainty, illegal drugs pouring across the border, another COVID variant on the horizon and skyrocketing gas prices are mind-numbing. We find ourselves crippled with confusion. Politicians and the news media blast us with conflicting information on what is happening now. We are at a loss as to what to do or how to solve each dilemma. The first step of action whenever something dire occurs is to place blame on the other side, whatever side that may be. Where do we find the truth?

We live in a fallen world where the prince of darkness continues to attack our faith. Satan plans to hobble our values, undermine our commitments, and weaken our determination to live Christian lives. Satan delights in our confusion. He thrives on chaos, prodding us with shock-and-awe tactics and doom-and-gloom portents of the future.

But Satan is a liar. He has his own agenda which is not in our best interest. This is spiritual warfare, plain and simple, and the battle is raging around us.

The season of Lent is a perfect time to reaffirm our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to Him call you personally into His presence. Acknowledge that He is the way and the truth and the life. Rediscover your identity in Christ. And promise to serve Him with a humble, joyful heart.

### **Two stages of Spiritual Growth**

In a February Sunday sermon Father Hal identified two stages of spiritual growth. In the first stage we focus on what's in it for ourselves. These are the benefits of a holy Christian life where we find ourselves forgiven, accepted, loved, and affirmed by faith. We enjoy the enlightenment of the Word as we study the Holy Bible. We discover our spiritual gifts and practice using them. We feel the grace and mercy of our triune God pour over us. We grow in fellowship with other Christians in the Body of Christ. We clothe ourselves in the identity of God's children, heirs to His eternal kingdom through our Savior Jesus Christ. One's personal identity changes as we develop in holiness. We set ourselves apart (become holy) and respond to a higher level of piety. We commit ourselves to The Golden Rule: to love God above all else and to love one another as Jesus loves us.

The second stage of spiritual growth focuses on what's in it for the glory of God. Here we turn attention from ourselves to thoughts, words and deeds which glorify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We assume the servant's garb and humble ourselves to the Sovereign Lord. We trust in Him completely.

Even when the future looks grim, we trust Him to have our best interest. Even when things do not go our way—when we do not get what we want right this minute -- He sees the big picture which we do not see. Even if tragedy and calamity occur, we know by faith that God is faithful. For His understanding is not our own. His plan extends beyond mortal vision into eternity. He assures us in His Word that as we

trust and obey He will take care of all the rest. He WILL provide, guide, guard, forgive and console. His righteousness is far beyond any one human can offer another. His grace flows from the scarred hands of Jesus. His mercy renews each morning. God is good. God is love.

Trust in Him completely. Obey His commands. Believe His promises. Enjoy His blessings. And sing hymns proclaiming the joy of a humble servant's heart to the glory of our Lord God Almighty. Amen

### **O Jesus, I Have Promised, the history**

English poet, hymn writer and Anglican cleric (priest, rector, and vicar) John Ernest Bode (1816-1874) wrote this poem in 1866 to commemorate the confirmation of his daughter and two sons into the Church. He told his children, "I have written a hymn containing all the important truths I want you to remember." In his poem Bode affirms the believer's commitment to Jesus and requests His guidance through the battle against evil. He promises to serve in obedient tandem with Jesus, his Master and his Friend. He pleads for Jesus' presence as shield and defender in the second stanza. He asks for conversation with Jesus, forming a direct relationship with the Son of God. He acknowledges Jesus' promise for eternal life. He asks for Jesus' sustaining grace and strength until he reaches his heavenly reward.

First sung to a 1865 Welsh melody, modern hymnals prefer the tunes called DAY OF REST or ANGEL'S STORY. This is the only poem Reverend Bode wrote which has survived as a hymn. Let the words sink into your heart as you ponder the majesty of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **O Jesus, I Have Promised, the lyrics**

O, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end. Be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend. I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side; nor wander from the pathway, if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near. I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear. My foes are ever near me, around me and within. But Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will. O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control. O speak and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be. And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end. O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footprints and in them plant my own. My hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone. O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end. And then in heav'n receive me, my Master and my Friend.

Psalm 23, John 12:26, Galatians 3:20, 1 Timothy 4:8-9, Hebrews 11:6

Jean Stinnett

**IN  
THIS  
ISSUE**

**AGNUS DEI**



- Pastor's Message: April Showers
- Easter Sunday Morning Events
- Holy Week Schedule
- Good Shepherd and Great House Crosses  
*Thank you Heath and Stacy Belk*
- Lent: A Call to Action in Faith  
*by Jean Stinnett*

**Happy Birthday!**  
**April Birthdays**

4/8

Laila Farrera

4/13

Tiana Hennings

4/23

Sharon Weber

**May Agnus Dei Deadline is April 15th**



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