



Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

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

AGNUS DEI

Spring 2024

"I am the

Good Shepherd.

The

Good Shepherd

gives his life

for his sheep."

John 10:11

Living with Jesus: A Time to Plant Celebrations of Rebirth

By Jean Stinnett LPC

Traditional and secular celebrations of rebirth are part of written and oral histories around the world. Easter bunnies, painted eggs, wearing new clothes, spring proms, Arbor Day, Earth Day and even Mother's Day are testimonies acknowledging new life. These are cultural opportunities to shed the somber weight of dark winter and enjoy longer daylight.



Many of our traditions focus on the harvest rather than on the planting. But everything begins with a seed: fruits, vegetables, ideas, hope, love, and yes-- faith.

In the Book of Genesis God created the world and everything in it in orderly fashion. He declared it to be "very good" (Genesis 1:31), then rested on the seventh day. Different from every other pagan creation story is that God existed before creation, clearly superior to the physical world He brought forth from void.

The Garden of Eden was Adam's and Eve's first home. "Eden" is translation of a Hebrew word meaning "Delight." God created man in His image, declared him as steward over every other creature, and set him in a beautiful place where he lacked for nothing. God created woman to be his helper, observing that "it is not good that man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). God set Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to His delight.

Unfortunately, this first covenant between God and man was broken by Adam's disobedience. First to sin, Adam became a sinner and as first man, every descendant after him inherited sinfulness and death. With the resurrection of Jesus we find new birth in the risen Christ. Through Him we are born again, redeemed by His sacrifice, and reconciled to our Father in His atonement. Hallelujah indeed!

Rogation Days

"To everything there is a season; a time for every purpose under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Rogation Sunday is the Sixth Sunday in Eastertide, the Sunday after Easter. Rogation evolves from the Latin word, "rogare," which means to ask. We ask God for provision during this time of seed planting, for protection of the good earth He has given, and for the fullness of harvest. Rogation Days-- the three days before Ascension Day -- have long been celebrated by liturgical congregations as days of prayer for the harvest. After His resurrection, Jesus stayed with His disciples for 40 days to prove He was still alive and to prepare them for His departure. Ascending into heaven, Jesus returns to the Father after commissioning His followers to "go forth and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19).

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Father Jack King, Anglican pastor and author, wrote in an online article in the Anglican Compass listing three reasons why we should observe Rogation Days:

1) Praying at seedtime. Many of Jesus' parables center on seeds, the sower, and harvest. In Matthew 13:31-32 and Mark 4:31-32: the parable of the mustard seed teaches how a small amount of faith will accomplish much in the kingdom of God. Both Matthew in Chapter 13 and Mark (4:26) record Jesus' parables of the growing seed in reference to God's kingdom. The seed is the beginning of faith which must be nurtured, nourished, and tended in order to grow. Jesus calls out to discipleship in Matthew 9:37-38 and Luke 10:2 saying, "The harvest is plenty but the workers are few." He teaches in Luke 6:43-45 about the tree and its fruit: "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart." A seed symbolizes the promise of food. "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work" (John 4:34). Jesus speaks of his ministry, telling his followers the fields are ripe today.

2) Rediscovering the parish. The parish, city, community, and congregation indicate places where we live, work, and worship. Therefore we are invested and responsible to prepare the earth for Jesus' second coming. We are to thrive in and promote the communities where we live. A contemporary saying comes to mind: "Bloom where you are planted."

3) Live responsibly. It is no coincidence Rogation days fall in the same week we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Father King says, "We're asking heaven to come to earth even as earth—in the risen body of Jesus—ascends to heaven."

Why do we work so hard in springtime? Good soil must be nourished and plowed in preparation. Good seeds must be selected, culled from the old, and planted in a timely fashion. Good gardening requires fresh water, daily attention, and continued care. Then we wait for the fruits of our labor to ripen.

Our faith in Jesus Christ must also be nourished for it to thrive. The soil of our hearts must be plowed with repentance. Good seeds come from studying the Word and discerning our actions. The Master Gardener provides living water with our daily prayer and meditation upon Scripture. We must carefully guard our hearts from the ever-present threat of evil. Satan had his way in the Garden of Eden. But Jesus triumphed on the cross to bring all believers to salvation through His sacrifice, once for all.

Here is my prayer:

Holy God, mighty and awesome, thank You for the bounty of Your creation. Thank You for Your Son, our Redeemer, by whom we are ransomed and made new to serve and please You. May the love of Jesus flourish and grow in us so that we continue to reflect His light, in this and every season, to Your honor and glory. In Christ alone, Amen.

—Jean Stinnett



Table Time!



... they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. Acts 2:46

Holy Week



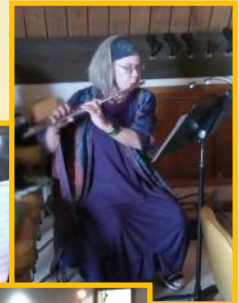
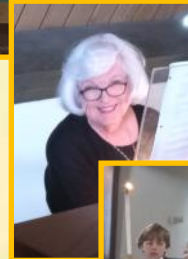
Palm Crosses



Maundy Thursday



Good Friday



Flowering the Cross



Sunrise Service



Children's Egg Hunt



Easter Family Photo

Pause, Ponder, Pray - Holy Week

Great House Retreat



Fun! Friends! Family! Faith!



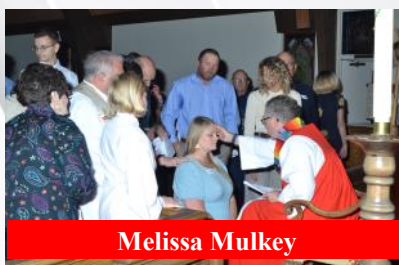
“Getting away from everything else!” “Life changing!” “Healing”

Baptisms, Confirmations, Receptions

Baptisms

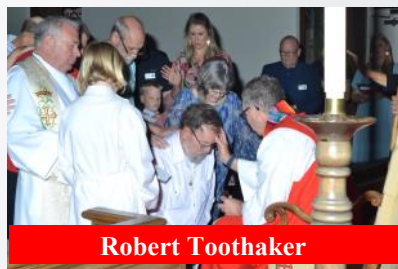


Confirmations



Anglican Church
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Receptions



They placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:17

ADSW School of Ministry 2024 Graduation



Mark Brown



Jim Debenport



Stephen Emmons PhD



Lizzy Grant



Luke Grant



Meredith Omland

In absentia

**Karen Czarnecki
Bert Shrecengost
Sean Jennett DVM
Venita Vasquez**



**Anglican Diocese of the Southwest
School of Ministry
Graduation 2024**



**Stephen and Meredith
present Appreciation Plaque
from the class to Fr. Hal**

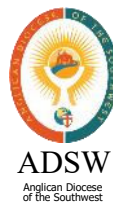
*And what you have heard from me entrust to faithful men and women,
who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2*

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