

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

That which seems impossible for man is possible for God! Grace triumphs once again – our faith lived out in a Godly life – loving God with all our heart, loving our neighbor as our self, loving one another as Christ loved us – that is John’s message for a diverse and changing Church. “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God.” May we live into John’s message, supporting one another in a life of faith and love; knowing we are indeed sinners: washed, forgiven, redeemed by Christ’s blood.

Warmly, Tony+

PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will be single services and we will have light finger foods following the services. On Easter Sunday there will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the service for the children (so invite all of your friends and neighbors). Jean Giesel and Elaine Ashley are organizing the refreshments so please let them know if you will be bringing something.

COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHEONS

- March 9**
 Host Church.....Community Church of Keystone Heights
 Speaker.....Pastor Buster Appling, Keystone Christian
 Music.....Bound to Soar, LABC

- March 16**
 Host church.....Trinity Episcopal, Melrose
 Speaker.....Pastor Jenny Smartt, Lake Area Bible Church
 Music.....Trinity Episcopal Men's Group

Colossians 3:23

Trinity Take Home Paper
 Calendar - Announcements - Reports - Schedules
 March 6, 2016 , Fourth Sunday of Lent
 The Rev. Tony Powell, Rector

The vision of Trinity Church is to be relevant to the Lake Region Community serving and drawing others to the gospel of Jesus Christ as a growing Episcopal Church.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased that you have come to worship with us this Lord’s Day morning, and it is our prayer that you will receive God’s blessing throughout the service. Trinity is an active and caring Episcopal Church. If you are a baptized Christian, you are welcome to come to the altar rail to receive the Sacrament of the Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. God loves you. No Exceptions!

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

St. Mark’s in Starke will be hosting the last two Lenten Soup Suppers. The programs have focused on *Holy Men and Holy Women*. There will also be a brief time for individuals to share any personal experiences you might have with someone in their lives they consider holy who has helped or influenced them along the way.

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20, EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Please note that on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we will have only one service at 10:00am.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY IS IN NEED OF HELP

The prayer shawls which are on the back of our pews have been knit by members of our prayer shawl ministry and have been blessed by Father Tony. They are always available for you to take if you need the comfort of one and especially if someone you know is homebound or in the hospital. The women in Sister’s Circle also knit hats for the homeless in the chilly winter months and have given many to Church Without Walls and to Serenity Village in Gainesville.

The cost of yarn for a shawl is approximately \$20 and for a hat \$7. There is now a need for more yarn, if you would like to donate to this loving ministry, please leave a check in the plate or send it to the office.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY CHURCH

Sun. 3/6 Fourth Sun of Lent
First Sunday 10:00am Service
Pot Luck Lunch
Following the Service

Monday 3/7

Tuesday 3/8

10:00am Sister's Circle
12:00pm Betty's and the Bible
1:30pm New Testament Class
in the Wicker Room
5:30pm AA in Wicker Room
7:00pm Al Anon in Wicker Room

Wednesday 3/9

6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper

Thursday 3/10

10:00am—4:00pm Thrift Shop

Friday 3/11

2:00 pm—5:00pm Thrift Shop

Saturday 3/12

9:00am—12:00pm Thrift Shop

Sun. 3/13 Fifth Sun in Lent
8:30 and 11:00 Eucharist Service

9:30 Breakfast
10:00 Youth Formation
Discussion of the Lessons
12:00 Lunch

Sun. Mar. 20th One Service 10:00am

Sun Mar. 27th One Service 10:00am

FUTURE EVENTS

MARCH

- Mar. 8 PH in Use
- Mar. 9 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm at St. Mark's
- Mar. 14 Vestry
- Mar. 15 Presidential Primary PH
- Mar. 16 Lenten Soup Supper 6pm at St. Mark's
Community Luncheon 12Noon at Trinity
- Mar. 20 Palm Sunday 10:00am**
- Mar. 21 Evensong 6:00pm**
- Mar. 22 Taize 6:00pm**
- Mar. 23 Tenenbrae 6:00pm**
- Mar. 24 Maundy Thursday 6 pm Seder Dinner**
- Mar. 25 Good Friday 12 and 6**
- Mar. 27 EASTER SUNDAY 10am**

SEDER DINNER

On Maundy Thursday just prior to the Eucharist we will have a symbolic Seder Dinner rather than foot washing this year. We will have information available about the meanings of the parts and elements of the dinner. If you would like to join us, please sign up after the service today. We will not have enough "colorful" plates available, so please bring your plate with you (and take it home too!)

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Altar Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of If you would like to give flowers in memory of someone, to celebrate an event or for a special thanksgiving, please call the office and sign up on the hall bulletin board.

Dear Trinity Family,

After the message at Wednesday's Lenten Luncheon, a woman came up and asked, "Episcopalians are more scientific, aren't they? Much more open aren't you?" "Yes," I acknowledged. The pastor's message dealt with the verses in the chapter two of 1st John, concerning testing our faith to see if in fact we are true believers, if in fact we are "saved."

John writes, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

A few verses later John continues, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Then the preacher inserted a verse from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV)

All at once, the message went from one of love and forgiveness, to one of disparagement, a message focused on sexual sin, a sermon stealthily aimed at homosexuality and same-sex marriage.

Unfortunately, I see a lot of this happening in the Church today, as many dig in their heels, defining their Christianity by specific verses in the Bible, preaching a Gospel that excludes certain people.

However, John begins his letter acknowledging that we are all sinners: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." John's letter is full of tension between those who obey Christ's commandments and belong to Him and those who do not and belong to the devil, however, in the end, he sums up his message, saying,