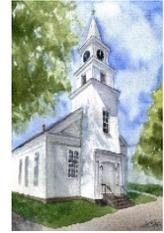




Church on the Cape Newsletter



April 2026

The Joy of the Resurrection



We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal

light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4–5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?

Source: Newsletternewsletter

From The Pastor's Desk

“Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself. Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.”

Many of us know this song and our Church Choir will be sharing it as an anthem on Good Friday. As I ponder what it says, I'd like to suggest that it is both profoundly true and profoundly wrong at the same time!

Very clearly, the path that Jesus walked was a lonely path that he walked alone. He was unique in being the incarnation of God in a way that no one else has ever been. In walking that path, carrying within him both full humanity and full divinity, he experienced something we can never completely comprehend nor can any of us duplicate what he accomplished.

It is also true that Jesus was left alone by his disciples. When he prayed in the garden his disciples slept, leaving him alone in his anguish. When he was arrested, he was deprived of the support of his closest friends and surrounded by his opponents. While he had companions in his crucifixion, none of his friends and disciples were crucified with him. In these ways, the song is absolutely right, Jesus walked it by himself, and no one could take his place.

In our Lenten Study book, we examined the roles of many of the lesser characters in the Passion story. One of those characters was Simon of Cyrene. Simon appears only at the end of Jesus' life as the Roman soldiers pick him out of the crowds on the streets of Jerusalem and compel him to carry the cross for Jesus. In our study we were asked to reflect upon Simon's experience and his importance in the story. Simon walked by Jesus' side on the journey to Calvary and carried the cross for Jesus. In that sense, the song is wrong. Jesus did not walk alone. An otherwise unknown man becomes his closest companion on the walk that led to death.

Nor was Simon the only one. We are reminded that there was a larger group of people who walked with Jesus—among them a group of

women who were weeping and mourning. Jesus even pauses to acknowledge them. In that sense too, he was not alone. He was surrounded by those who expressed their love for him by walking with him and showing their sorrow.

The story of Jesus passion, then, reveals how two things can be profoundly true at the same time even when they may seem like a contradiction. He was alone, very alone, and yet he was not alone because there were those who walked by his side. This invites us to ponder what it was like both for those who did not walk with Jesus and those who did. Where would we have been in this story? How would we have felt and responded if we had been pulled from the crowd to walk beside Jesus and carry his cross? If we had been on that crowded street, would we have wept with anguish or cheered with glee?

As we ponder these questions, we remember that Jesus said, “if any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34) Jesus made it clear that even though in one sense he would be walking alone, being his faithful followers also means walking with him. The cross for Jesus is both literal and metaphor—a sign pointing to a way of living and being that aligns the path that we walk in life with the path that Jesus walked. While he walked alone, faithful disciples still walk with him, taking up the cross to live faithfully in the way Jesus revealed.

The one who walked alone, still walks with us and if we are to be faithful to him, like Simon of Cyrene, we carry the cross by his side, and like those who wept for him, we show him our love. If Jesus walks alone, then there are no disciples, no faithful Christians in this world. Through the cross, Jesus reaches out to every one of us and asks, “will you now walk with me or will I still walk alone?”

Reverend Greg Smith

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February 4, 2026

Dear Administrative Council Chair Jean Moulton and Pastor Gregory Smith,

"Just as you excel in everything... see also that you excel in the grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7
In our recent cabinet meeting, we have reviewed the giving of each of our local churches for the last year and noted that your church paid 100% of your Conference Mission Share last year. As your bishop, I'm especially proud of the commitment you have to each other and the way in which you demonstrate that commitment through your payment of your Mission Shares. I am writing today to thank you for that commitment. It has not gone unnoticed and, I know, is a result of some intentional hard work on your part.

Our United Methodist Book of Discipline clearly states that paying your Connectional Apportionments is every local church's "first benevolent responsibility." Your faithfulness in giving to our Mission Share apportionment, demonstrates that you are a partner in ministry with the New England Annual Conference and the broader connection of The United Methodist Church. I'm proud to write and acknowledge your faithfulness to the ongoing mission and ministry of the church that God has called us to as faithful disciples.

Thank you so very much for your hard work and faithfulness. It is greatly appreciated
God *is* faithful! Faithful is also what God is asking us to be. In the book of II Corinthians, Paul recounts the extreme faithfulness of the church in Macedonia even in the midst of what Paul described as a severe ordeal in the midst of extreme poverty. They were faithful and joyful as they gave themselves to God and to one another. When they did, they gave beyond what the Bible says was their ability to give at all.

God changed the world through them. As we are faithful, I believe God will once again change the world, ... through us!

Thank you once again for your faithfulness in paying your Mission Shares 100%. I deeply appreciate it.

The Journey continues, .

Peace & Joy,

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop - New Hope Episcopal Area
The New England and New York Annual Conferences

April Scripture Readings



APR 01 | Wednesday of Holy Week

- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalms 70 (UMH 793)
- Hebrew 12:1-3
- John 13:21-32

APR 02 | Thursday of Holy Week/Maundy Thursday (Purple or Red)

- Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
- Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 (UMH 837)
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-17, 31b-35

APR 03 | Friday of Holy Week/Good Friday (No Color)

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22 (UMH 752)
- Hebrews 10:16-25
- John 19:1-42 or
- Mark 14:1-15:47

APR 04 | Holy Saturday/Easter Eve (No Color prior to sunset)

- Job 14:1-14
- Ps 31:1-4, 15-16 (UMH 764)
- 1 Peter 4:1-8
- Matt 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

APR 05 | Easter Day (White or Gold)

- Jer 31:1-6
- Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)
- Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

APR 12 | Second Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

- Ex 15:1-11
- Ps 111
- 1 Pet 1:3-9
- John 20:19-31

APR 19 | 3rd Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday

(White or Gold)

- Isa 51:1-6
- Ps 34:1-10
- 1 Pet 1:17-23
- Luke 24:13-35

APR 26 | 4th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

- Ezk 34:7-15
- Ps 100
- 1 Pet 2:19-25
- John 10:1-10

Church on the Cape
UPCOMING
Worship Services
Holy Week and Easter Services

MARCH 29 *Palm Sunday* ♦ 10:00 am
Worship at Church on the Cape

APRIL 2 *Maundy Thursday* ♦ 7:00 pm
Worship at Church on the Cape

APRIL 3 *Good Friday* ♦ 7:00 pm
Worship at Church on the Cape

APRIL 5 *Sunrise Service* ♦ 6:00 am
Worship at Middle Beach

Traditional Service ♦ 10:00 am
Worship at Church on the Cape

207-967-5787 office@churchonthecape.org



Food Drive

The Mission Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a Food Drive in April that will benefit the food pantry at COS -Community Outreach Services, which includes Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel. A list of non-perishable items will be in the bulletin each week.

Thank you! Ginny Hammar
207-985-9189

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg Hunt is on again this year on Easter! We are gratefully accepting donations of candy that will fit into the eggs. Please drop them at the office,

COMMITTEE HELP NEEDED

Are you interested in the Mission work supported by Church on the Cape? Would you like to help with reaching out to the community and finding ways to invite more people to be a part of our congregation? Both our Mission Committee and our Evangelism Committee need additional members to help with their work. Diane Hutchins chairs our Mission Committee and Kathy Berger chairs our Evangelism committee.

THERE'S SOMETHING BETTER COMING

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.



Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Bon Appetit

Wednesday, April 15, is Church on the Cape's Day to serve at Bon Appetit, Community Meal Program. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 4:25 at 19 Crecent Street in Biddeford. Please let Kathy Johnson know if you plan to attend. kjohnjazz@yahoo.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are excited to have nine new members of our wonderful church including two children. The first of two photos shows the confirmation of them, and the second, their celebration after membership.



From left to right: **Drew Peters, Elisabeth Peters, Laura Patnaude, Sandy Demerest, Russ Demerest, Winston Jadooram, Remy Jadooram, Shana Jadooram, and Mike Jadooram.**

Photos by Mike Kelly

Love is Everywhere



It is so pleasing to see a mother hugging her child, or a dad and son building a toy together.

And for us at Church on the Cape, there is the opportunity for strengthening our love of God through inspiring sermons full of God's word given with love from our pastor; and also, the beautiful music with spiritual guidance sung and played with love from participants in our hymn sing and choir.

More examples include the opportunity to be among others participating with love in their worship of God and the sacrament of communion and sharing good cheer and affection during passing our peace time and coffee hour.

And it is so pleasing to see in the accompanying photo, Roberta Sanborn's contentment and love for her rabbit friend. Thank you Roberta for sharing your love.

Called Friends by Christ



According to John's Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:15-16, ESV).

The depth of Christ's friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and for us as well. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:13-14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, "the only cement that will hold the world together."

Source: Newsletternewsletter

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Over the past few weeks, our Sunday School classes have been on a meaningful journey through the season of Lent. Each Sunday morning begins with a conversation about what Lent means, the lighting of our Lenten candle, and continued learning of the Lord's Prayer together.



The journey began in the Garden of Eden, where the children talked about temptation and the importance of saying “no” to the serpents in our lives. The children created their own serpents and hung apples on a tree we made together, reminding us of the Tree of Life and the choices we make each day.

Next, we traveled through the desert with Abraham and Sarah, learning about trusting God to care for us even when the path ahead feels uncertain. The children made stars to represent God's promise that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky — a promise that includes all of us.

Our adventure continued with Moses leading the people through the desert (portrayed wonderfully by Remy!). The children learned about the Israelites' journey, their complaints, and how God provided for them when Moses struck the rock and water flowed. In fact, Isabella even Face Timed Nana, aka Carol Nason, to give a very detailed description of the wandering people in the desert, Moses striking the rock, and the miracle of water. It appeared what resonated most with her was the walking and complaining....something she mentioned several times when recounting the story. Of course, after the story, everyone in Sunday School enjoyed some water, and a well-earned snack!

This season was made even more special when Remy and Winston's parents joined the church as members, and the boys proudly stood up with them. We are so grateful to celebrate this milestone with them and to continue growing together as a church family. On Palm Sunday, the children will continue their Lenten journey by moving through interactive stations that remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey and the important events that lead us to Easter.

It has been a joyful and meaningful time of learning, creativity, and faith as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter together.

Article by Ellen Simmons

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes, confess, repent, and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community or just passing through, we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts. You are among people like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual Hymn Sing and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

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