



Weekly Email Blast!

Letter from Pastor P+ April 14, 2020

Easter came without bright spring dresses, lilies and flowers filling the sanctuary, without Easter Brunches at church or Egg hunts in the garden. But Easter still came, because Christ is still risen!

I remind people every year that Easter lasts 50 days! (yep all the way to May 31 this year) and every Sunday is a 'Little Easter' as we commemorate Jesus' life death and resurrection in Holy Communion.

But you can be comforted to know that it was different for all of us – we all felt a little let down that Easter moment we cherish could not happen. We maintain this virtual community at Holy Cross these days partly to honor God and our faith, but also to comfort us each in our mourning. Because there is real grief in the massive changes we have lived through since Mid March 2020. We miss the touch of each others' hands in sharing the Peace. We miss hearing the voices sing the favorite hymns, and we miss the corporate generosity in passing the offering plate. I miss seeing you all as I preach my sermons – I truly use your reactions, your connection to make the sermon work. It is a different thing to preach to a camera.

But, we have made it through Holy Week and Easter, and now let's do a new thing – let's try to connect in new ways in order to share the weight of this experience.

I have scheduled a weekly zoom meeting (for that you need a computer if you want to see and be seen, but you can call on a phone and it is much like a conference call) every Thursday at 5 pm for the next several weeks. We'll put the info in your email blast every week (you should call Janet if you're not getting the blast), as well as here in the mailer – the instructions will be the same every week. I'm calling this Group "What is God Saying Today?" And I hope we will discuss who we are now, as well as the scriptures. The meeting will be 40 minutes long. Please follow the instructions on the next page.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78252959541?pwd=NVpsSjJhNG9GaldWditKbnlOeW1UQT09>. Or call either 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 then follow the prompts to enter the meeting id and password.

Meeting ID: 782 5295 9541 Password: 9ZvcXn

This Thursday, April 16th, we will study these scriptures –

First Reading Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel John 20:19-31

If you are not able to join us on Zoom – please take some time to read these scriptures anyway. In them, God speaks to us and our current condition with Love – Blessings – Pastor P+

Praying together at Holy Cross – April 19, 2020

We pray for those in leadership in our country, our state and our cities. May God sustain them and continue to point them to compassionate, quick and well-informed response. Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for the staggering numbers of families affected by Covid – 19, for those struggling with illness, and those concerned for ill loved ones. *(specific people are mentioned here)* **Lord, in your mercy,** Hear Our Prayer

We pray for the marginalized, who are frightened by loss of income, and housing in these days. Help us to each find ways to help those whose struggle is more dire than our own. *(specific people are mentioned here)* **Lord, in your mercy,** Hear Our Prayer

We pray for educators, parents, and children, as we strive to continue to be people who learn in times of great change and upheaval. *(specific people are mentioned here)* **Lord, in your mercy,** Hear Our Prayer

We pray for special circumstances – those in nursing homes, cut off from family, those working in hospitals and essential services. Protect and guard each of them at this time. *(specific people are mentioned here)* **Lord, in your mercy,** Hear Our Prayer

We pray for this season of Easter – help us to a new understanding of God’s bounty and love. Help us to find the evidence of Your new birth in our daily lives. **Lord, in your mercy** Hear Our Prayer

For this and all those matters, circumstances and individuals whose needs are brought to mind at this time. *(specific people are mentioned here)* **Lord, in your mercy** Hear Our Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.