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God's Promise to Abram (Genesis 15)
(woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 1860)

From Randy DiPentima, Senior Warden

If you read Katherine Almquist's column two weeks ago, you will understand when I say, I am so grateful she said "yes." Katherine has enthusiastically and graciously hosted our receptions and celebrations over the past year under challenging circumstances. Her most recent was the retirement reception for Tom Holcombe, and it was wonderful. I know she would not mind my saying that she would welcome more hands in her endeavors (next will be Maundy Thursday and Easter) and more coffee hour hosts. Thank you, Katherine, for your ministry of hospitality and for assuming the role of junior warden.

This past weekend we saw the return of live non-liturgical music to the nave, when the Kent Singers performed their long-delayed *Songs of the British Isles* on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Also this weekend masks at our services became optional and welcome. And our interim music director Susan Guse led the choir and played the organ, both with grace and skill. A grateful welcome to Susan.

As the season of Lent begins, I commend a short book I discovered by happenstance: *The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross* by Jon Meacham, a historian known for his presidential biographies. I have found it a thoughtful and provocative mix of history and theology.

In my own Lenten reading I have returned to Russell Levinson's Lenten

companion, *A Path to Wholeness*. A passage I read earlier this week included a prayer that seemed particularly poignant in light of the present war against the people of Ukraine. It was written by an unknown prisoner at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp.

O Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us; remember the fruits we have brought, thanks to this suffering—our comradeship, our loyalty, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of all this, and when they come to judgment let all the fruits which they have borne be their forgiveness.

This Week at St Andrew's

Friday, 11 March	Prayer & Meditation	5:30 pm
Sunday, 13 March	Holy Eucharist: <i>Lent 2 (in person only)</i>	8:30 am
Sunday, 13 March	Choir Rehearsal	9:15 am
Sunday, 13 March	Holy Eucharist: <i>Lent 2 (in person and live-streamed)</i>	10:30 am
Sunday, 13 March	M&O Commission	12:00 noon
Tuesday, 15 March	Small Group: <i>The Way of Love</i>	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 16 March	Mid-week Evening Prayer	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 16 March	A.A. for Women (<i>Zoom meeting; email us for info</i>)	7:00 pm
Thursday, 17 March	NO Vestry Meeting	
Thursday, 17 March	A.A. Meeting (<i>Parish House</i>)	7:30 am
Thursday, 17 March	A.A. Meeting (<i>Parish House</i>)	7:00 pm
Thursday, 17 March	Al-Anon Meeting	7:00 pm

Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

Details about each of these events can be found later in this issue of the *Epistle*

Saturday, 19 March	Music in the Nave: <i>Manhattan String Quartet</i>	4:00 pm
Saturday, 26 March	"Her-Story," a cabaret	4:00 pm

celebration of famous women; performed by Suzanne Tanner, narrated by Katherine Almquist, dance by Lyra Wilder (Reception to follow)

Sunday, 27 March

Open House at the newly renovated Christ Church Cathedral (Hartford)

3:00-5:00 pm

Sunday, 3 April

Bricks & Books: The History of the Kent Library

3:00 pm

Time Change on Saturday Evening



Remember to **set your clocks ahead one hour** when you got to bed on Saturday evening! There's nothing worse than getting to coffee hour and finding all of the goodies have been eaten!

The War in Ukraine: Spiritual and Practical Resources

The ongoing unprovoked and unjustified Russian aggression in Ukraine is causing many of us anxiety, anger and an urge to 'do something' to help address it.



On the most fundamental and practical level, Episcopal Relief and Development, our Church's principal charitable agency, is collecting monetary donations to assist the people of Ukraine. You may donate using [this link](#).

Here are some additional resources, compiled by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, that you may wish to explore:

- [Call and Prayer for Averting Conflict](#) (Episcopal Church Executive Council)
- [A Faith Vigil for Peace in Ukraine](#) (The Episcopal Church and Friends Committee on National Legislation)
- [An Interfaith Call to Peace for Ukraine](#) (TEC Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Other Interfaith Leaders)
- [Statement on Russian divestment from Episcopal Church CFO Kurt Barnes](#)
- [Joint Statement from Archbishops of Canterbury and York](#)
- [World Central Kitchen](#)
- [Amnesty International](#)
- [UN High Commission on Refugees](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders](#)
- [Voices of Children](#) (A Ukrainian Charitable Foundation working with children traumatized by armed conflict)
- [Sunflower of Peace](#) (Provides first aide medical tactical backpacks for paramedics and doctors on the front lines of the conflict)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)

Finally, the *Book of Common Prayer* is a treasury of spiritual expressions that, like the Psalms, address almost every human experience, in every age. I urge you to leaf through it during these times and see how Christ may speak to you through its words. I find the Collect for Peace (p 258), especially comforting, for both the open-handedness and boldness of the vision it prays:

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Our Interim Director of Music: Welcome, Susan Guse!



The Music Commission is delighted to announce that **Susan Guse** (pronounced "goosey") has agreed to serve as our Interim Music Director through the end of August, while we complete our search for a permanent director. Susan's first day with us was Ash Wednesday.

A resident of Hopewell Junction, New York, Susan says she enjoys a beautiful commute to Kent. Most recently, she supplied for three months at Trinity Episcopal, in Fishkill, New York, and one month at Zion Episcopal, in Wappingers Falls.

From January 1990 until her retirement in August 2020, Susan was Children's Choir Director for eight years, and then Music Director for twenty-two years at St John's Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. The church music program expanded rapidly during her tenure. Saint John's installed a new Casavant Pipe Organ in 1998 and purchased five octaves of handbells and five octaves of chimes in 2000. Under Susan's supervision, St John's had four Handbell Choirs, Children's Choirs, an Adult Choir as well as a String Ensemble, Recorder Ensemble and Brass Ensemble.

Prior to moving to the Hudson Valley in 1989, Susan served as Music Director at St Mark's Lutheran in St Louis, Missouri, and St John's Lutheran in Dayton, Ohio. She has a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Wittenberg University and a Bachelor's Degree from Smith College (majoring in music).

Susan and her husband Mike (retired from IBM East Fishkill) have three adult sons, two grand daughters, ages 5 and 7, and two small dogs.

Please be sure to greet Susan when you see her on Sunday and welcome her

to the St Andrew's parish family!

Music in the Nave: The Manhattan String Quartet Saturday, March 19th at 4 PM



Dear Friends,

Feeling stressed? We've got just the thing for you: the soothing sounds of the Manhattan String Quartet, as they take you from the Renaissance to Ravel. Spend a delightful hour with them at St. Andrew's on Saturday, March 19th at 4 p.m. Admission is \$15, tickets at <https://bit.ly/msqspain> and the door. Bring the kids: students are free.

For more information, call 860-927-3486, email st.andrew.kent@snet.net, or visit www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html

You look better already! See you there.

A Thank-You From Tom and Marty



To all of you who so generously gave Marty and me a retirement present of a gift certificate for Tanglewood, and money for an awesome feast at the Red Lion, many thanks.

As I explained to the Choir, Tanglewood is a place of special memory for us, as I proposed to Marty at a concert there back in 1965, out back during the intermission right after hearing the orchestra perform Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. It seemed like the perfect place and time! Anyway, you and your wonderful new priest are a great parish where we have many friends, and we will still be members, for sure.

We won't be coming Sundays for a while, though, as we'd like Susan not to have us breathing down her neck in her new job. From what little I've seen of her as of now, I think she'll work out very well, and keep the tradition alive. Stay well!

-- Tom (and Marty)

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN.

We have now resumed all of our usual pre-COVID practices except the sharing of the Common Cup; we distribute the Wine in individual portions.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services.

Worship During Lent: Wednesday Evenings



On **Wednesday evenings during Lent**, our customary 6:00 pm Eucharist will be preceded by an opportunity for the Rite of Reconciliation (more popularly known as "Confession"; *Book of Common Prayer*, p 447), in private, at 5:00 pm; and, at 5:30 pm, by the *Way of the Cross*, a liturgy of 14 very short lessons that lead us to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and death ... and our need of the forgiveness He's already given us. (You may come for one, two or all three of these offerings. They are separate rites, and you needn't be present for all of them.)

If you have never attended a mid-week Eucharist ... or if you're interested in exploring Confession or the Way of the Cross ... Lent is an excellent time to

'try on' one of these new liturgical practices and reflect on how it draws you closer to God. Please come!

New for Lent: A Small Group Journey Through *The Way of Love*



THE WAY OF LOVE *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

Our primary Lenten offering this year will be a small group that will come together to journey through the Episcopal Church's *Way of Love*. The *Way of Love* is a set of seven very simple disciplines—shown in the graphic, above—intended to connect us with Jesus more regularly and more deeply in our daily lives. It is *not* a lot of reading or theology, but rather a call to personal reflection and experimentation (for example, trying to read the Bible for 10 minutes each day). A brief video introduction to the *Way* is available [here](#). While you can engage the *Way of Love* alone, it's an even richer spiritual journey when taken as a group: We are enriched by each others' experiences and supported by our commitment to the group.

Therefore, on **nine Tuesday evenings, beginning on 15 March**, a small group will come together at 6:00 pm in the Parish House. We'll share a simple supper and then take time to share with one another ... and discuss how to 'do' the *Way of Love* in our own lives. We'll close each evening with a brief service of Compline, and then be on our way home no later than 8:00.

This really is a low-cost, low-risk spiritual 'try-on' that stresses flexibility, do-ability and being gentle with oneself. It's ideal for anyone who's seeking to go a little deeper ... to live a little more intentionally ... to hold their faith in their heart and not just their head. And all are welcome!! If you would like to be part

of St Andrew's *Way of Love* small group (or if you have any questions), please let Fr Douglas know.

Shrove Tuesday: What a Feast It Was!

Thanks to our roving photographer Michael Ward for taking these pics of the return of our annual Pancake Supper, last Tuesday evening. And thanks to **Bob McDowell, Irene Coe, Jake Fricker, Duke Echolsand** so many others for making this event such a good time!





In Pawling:
A Gallery Exhibit in the Key of Lent



St Peter (David Morrison)

David Morrison shares "A Time of Reflection," a diverse collection of 40 works in pen and ink, acrylic paint, and glass art, at the Live 4 Art Gallery in Pawling, NY, which is owned by parishioner Ned Reade, during the month of March. The opening reception is tomorrow, Saturday, 12 March, from 5 to 7 pm.

His journey of creating "The Passion of Christ" started 20 years ago with his first piece in pen and ink, an abstracted Christ on the Cross entitled "You Are Not Alone." His desire to show the whole collection together gives observers a time to reflect, not only on The Passion of Christ, but also on their own journeys in life. It is a wonderful show to see during the penitential season of Lent.

This show went up on Friday, 04 March, and is up through Sunday, 27 March. Hours are Wednesday and Thursday 11 to 5, Friday and Saturday 11 to 6, and Sunday 11 to 3. The gallery is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

They're Almost Here: Refugee Family is Now in Virginia!



We received word this week that the Turquoise Mountain families, one of whom we will be helping to resettle in New Milford, have left Doha and arrived at the "Safe Haven" in Virginia. We still do not know how long they will need to stay there before coming to Connecticut. It could be two days, a week or even more. In any event, we, together with the rest of the Washington (CT) Refugee Resettlement Project team, will be ready to welcome them.

As a way to welcome the family, Fr Douglas suggested that handwritten cards would be a great way to show the family that they are welcome and we are happy to have them here. Since the family speaks very little English (their native tongue is Dari), the welcome messages should probably be short and to the point. We think that the children in our parish could especially reach the children of the arriving family by creating cards with artwork and pictorial messages. Please bring your cards and creations to coffee hour at the Parish House this Sunday. There will be blank cards available, too, if you would like to create a card on-the-spot. We will deliver the cards to the house.

Summary of the February Vestry Meeting



The Vestry's meeting on 17 February—the first for our newly elected members—was devoted mostly to welcomes and orientation. The Vestry also approved several routine motions governing our financial and banking operations and appointing chairs of various parish commissions and committees. The annual Parochial Report for 2021 was also approved.

"New" Vestments for Lent

You may notice that we are using new, deep violet vestments for Lent this year. I received these as an ordination gift from the very first parish I ever served, as an intern before I began seminary: Holy Apostles' in Yardville, New Jersey. A parishioner named Lynda with whom I'd grown close during my time there had, in turn, donated them to Holy Apostles'. The vestments had been made for her father, who was, like me, also a 'second-career' priest. Very sadly, Lynda's father died not very long after he was ordained to the priesthood.

This set of vestments includes a frontlet, which hangs only part-way to the ground, rather than the complete frontal to which we are accustomed. The frontlet enables us to view the legs of the Altar and see it as a true table where, indeed, a banquet is served at every Holy Eucharist.

-- Fr Douglas

Help Support the Kent Food Bank



Please help our parish family continue to support of the Kent Food Bank by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund
P O Box 262
Kent, CT 06757
memo: Food Bank

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of Kent's Social Services Director. In addition, it is useful for the Director to have IGA gift cards to give to families who are in need. Please consider purchasing a card, for \$25 or \$50, and taking it to Town Hall or dropping it in the donations basket in the Narthex. (You can also place it in the offering plate, marked for the Food Bank.)

The Kent Food Bank also accepts food donations. They are especially in need of staples such as **beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna.** Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past! Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

You may drop off food items on Fridays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon in the back of the Community House on Main Street. You may also place donations in the basket in the church Narthex or in the bin in the breezeway at the rear of the Rectory.

Lectons for this Week

The Second Sunday in Lent

Year C

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35



Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order to view past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

Worship Services

-Sunday-

Holy Eucharist

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;
Healing Service at 8.30,
Third Sunday

In person

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.

-Friday-

Prayer & Meditation

5.30 p.m.

-Holy Days-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.



12 Step Meetings

Wednesdays

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.

*Zoom meeting
email us for info.*

Thursdays

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Parish House)

resumed

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)

Suspended until March

Fridays

A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)

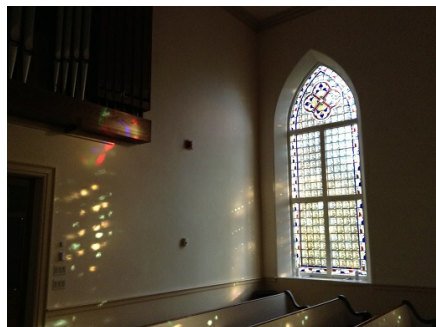
temporarily until First Church opens

resumed



Parish Staff

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Susan Guse
Organist & Director of Choirs

KC Compton,

Parish Administrator

Joan I Cassel
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Parish office open everyday except Friday from 10 am- 5 pm
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