



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON

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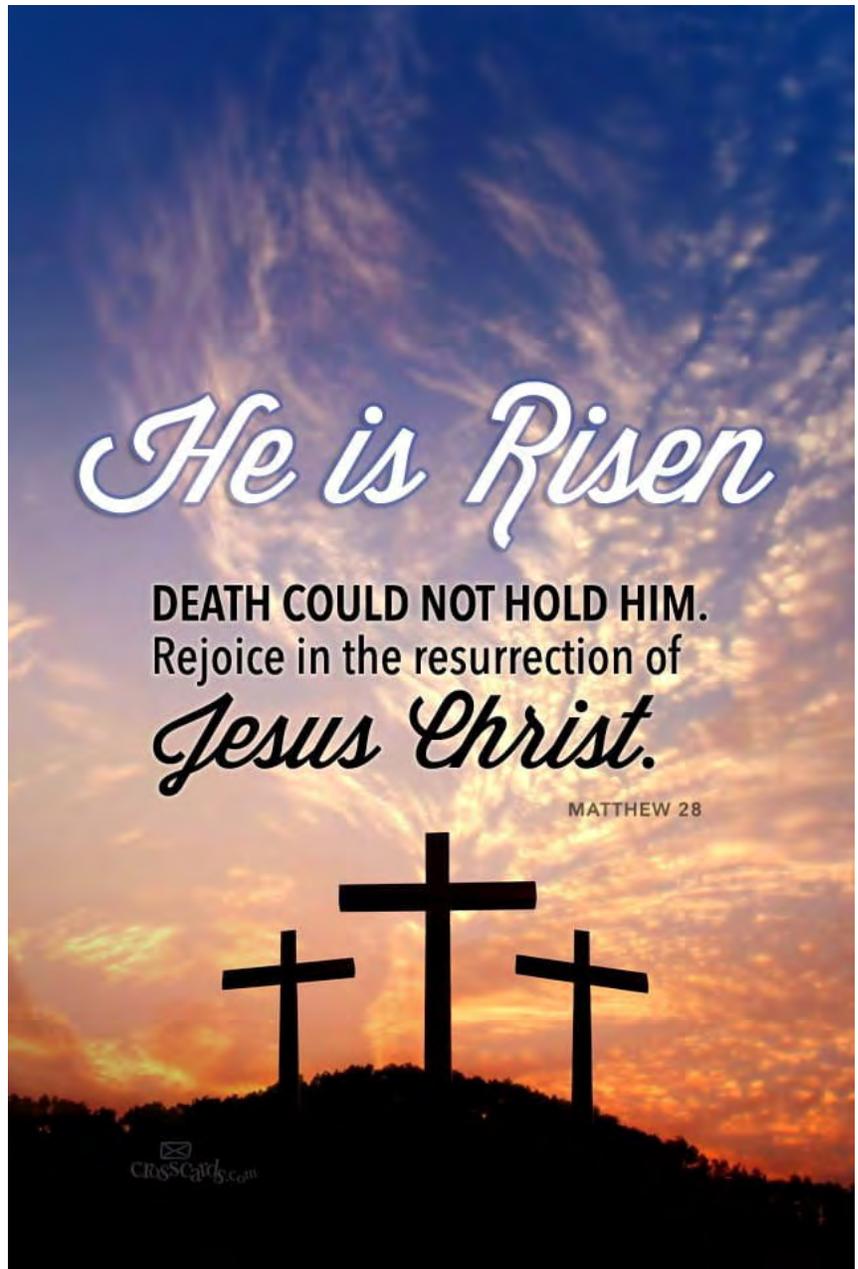
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In The Lord's Service



Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16



Rejoice With Us
Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m.



Mike's Message

Acts 5:40-42, ⁴⁰ "and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus."

1 Peter 3:13-15, ¹³ "Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..."

There is a considerable amount of concern among those who follow Jesus Christ that we are moving headlong into a time of religious persecution. I was sent an article today about a Canadian Christian pastor who was put in jail for preaching the Gospel during the pandemic. It was pointed out that abortion clinics were open and so were bars and marijuana stores. Here's the link if you want to see the interview.

<https://video.Foxnews.com/v/6241808338001>

If it happens in America, it will likely begin with those who insist on claiming that the Bible is the word of God and Jesus Christ is the only way for a person to be saved from the wrath of God. Also, speaking out against abortion, teaching sexual purity, and marriage only between a biological man and biological woman will likely invite persecution as well. Of course, persecution is not a new problem but has been the experience of Christians in every age throughout history where the word of God is boldly preached and taught. I don't recall a time in my life where Christians were not being persecuted for their faith in various places around the world. The question that always comes to my mind as I read stories of it happening is: "Why isn't it happening here?" Even as I asked myself the question, I thought I knew the answer. For a long time we have enjoyed a "live and let live" attitude between Christians and unbelievers in our society. There have been strong disagreements about many issues concerning God and his word but eventually everyone returned to their own corner. For the most part Christians stayed in the confines of their own environment and those uninterested in Christianity

stayed on the side of their beliefs, whether another religion or secularism. Of course there are always exceptions to the rule, but for the most part, Christians were not seen as a threat, not only to the rulers of our country but to the enemy, Satan. He always is a great supporter of nominal Christianity. Abortion has been a major topic of discussion and legal maneuvers, and now a cornucopia of opinions on human sexuality and even identity. Up until the 21st century the arguments between different sides were mainly based on different views on morality; but even though you may have disagreed with the positions of someone else, at least you could expect a debate based on logical points within the given systems, whether you believed them or not. Well, that's been thrown out of the window. As our culture became more secular it turned away from the word of God and therefore the values upon which our country was established. We are faced with one of the most irrational and godless societies anywhere in the world.

We are now faced with a godless culture, that seems to be dominant, who widely believe that moral values are culturally constructed rather than God given. Tim Keller in his book, "The Prodigal Prophet" writes, "It is commonly asserted, 'No one has the right to tell anyone else what is right or wrong for him or her.' It is a cultural given that every person determines his or her own moral values. Nevertheless, it is just as strongly believed that all people are obligated to support equal rights, justice for all, and care for the poor. This is one of the great contradictions of our society today. It insists that all morality is relative and then it demands moral behavior." i

Everyday we read of the assertions that a majority of America is a land of systemic racism, bigotry, and injustice. At the same time they reject that there are moral absolutes and certainly not God-given. We read of modern secular education that teaches the child to not let family, community, tradition, or religion stand in their way but to be true to themselves. They turn right around and demand justice, benevolence, and racial and social reconciliation which are all accomplished through self-denial.

C.S. Lewis in his book "The Abolition of Man" writes, "We continue to clamor for those very qualities we are rendering impossible.... In a sort of ghastly simplicity, we remove the organ and demand the function...We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful." ii

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Senior Warden Report

With sadness, but with a great amount of appreciation and wonderful thoughts, the Vestry received a letter from the LOC Women announcing formally the closure of the Thrift Shop. Many of our members came to our pews through a visit to, or working in the Thrift Shop. I send our sincere "Thank you" to each person who led, worked or supported the Thrift Shop. You have been a large part of our history and lives.

On a happier note, we will have Easter services as close to the "old normal" as possible and still safe for our members and guests. We will increase our music program, serve communion at the rail for those who desire the historical service, and have Coffee Hour with coffee and some good food. The Parish Hall will be arranged to seat members and guests so we comply with state seating rules. If you plan to have family and guests in your home Easter, please bring them to our Service.

Courtney Ludeman, our Treasurer, presented financial reports that show our finances are strong for the first part of 2021. Mike and the vestry have worked hard to control expenditures resulting in a positive cash flow. Members and friends continue to donate to the Building Mortgage Fund, reducing our amount owed to just over \$30,000. I am sure we will have a "Burn the Mortgage" celebration in 2021. Thank you, Courtney, for keeping our records in order and paying the bills.

Mike and I met with Pastor Bibbens of Zion Baptist Church to discuss the NNKCS and some of the current issues. We agreed there is a need for a strong church school in our community and we should explore the possibility of our churches together managing and financing the structure for a school. Our first combined step will be to get government approval to keep the school operating in Zion Church for the near future. As we move forward we will provide more information.

Happy Easter to you and your families! See you in Church.

George



Easter Sunday

I want to let everyone know that we will be having the Maundy Thursday service and the Good Friday service at 6 p.m., both evenings.

Beginning Easter morning we will begin the service with the processional of crucifer, choir, lay Eucharistic ministers, and rector. For those who desire it, we are opening the altar for Holy Communion and the Eucharistic ministers will be at each side with a cup for intinction. Each person will receive the bread from the rector and move to the side where they are sitting to intinct the wafer into the wine. We will not have a common cup just yet.

For those who are uncomfortable with coming to the altar, the communion cup and wafer will still be available to be taken at your seat. We will still ask that masks be worn, especially coming in and leaving the sanctuary.

After the Easter service our Sunday coffee hour will resume. We will have food available to snack on as well. We thank the Lord that we can resume the traditions that we have held so dear for so long. See you there!

Mike



After the Fast from a South Asian Perspective



Different cultures and different languages have different ways of seeing and saying things. Take for example, Americans say, “I took my medicine.” In south Asia the direct translation is, “I ate my medicine.” Makes sense right? Just different.

Americans tend to say, “I am fasting.” South Asians normally say, “I am sitting in a fast” or “I am staying in a fast.” To me when I hear it said this way, the focus is no longer about me. The focus is the fast and why we practice the discipline of fasting. The focus is on who we are seeking and wanting to sit with.

If you do a fast for a long time like South Asian Christians, you might eat one meal a day and/or during a limited time. Recently as I did this, when I broke the fast, I was sometimes gluttonous. Even though I was fasting, I was not staying in the fast. “After the fast” was not glorifying God.

What do you do after a fast? After a fast, what are we “eating”, buying or doing gluttonously that stops us sitting with the Lord?

Your South Asian Missionary

Mike’s Message continued from page 2

This is why the gospel message has never been more important and those who stand up and proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the moral authority of God’s holy word will likely be persecuted. It’s always been that way and the Apostles knew that if societies were to be redeemed it could happen through Jesus Christ the Redeemer. Paying the price of bringing the message is to be considered an honor in light of what Jesus Christ did upon the cross. There is simply no other hope for this country of the world than the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Lord, let us be found faithful.

Blessings!
+Mike

i Tim Keller, “The Prodigal Prophet”, Viking Press, New York, 2018, p. 198

ii C.S. Lewis, The Abolition of Man”, MacMillan, New York, 1947, p.35

Light of Christ Women’s Message



In light of the current pandemic, impending closure of the thrift shop, and the reality that there are fewer women able to fulfill servant and leadership roles, the LOCW is dissolving its’ current structure of leadership. Remaining funds will be disbursed to the Northern Neck Christian School and Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba in Uganda, two recipients who fit with our outreach mission. The LOCW has brought women together in service, worship and spiritual formation, in addition to giving financial support to local community agencies and Christian

ministries. We are grateful for the participation of our women over the years. Thank you to Doris Myers, who served as coordinator for the past two years, and to Melinda Floom, who has served as our treasurer, and to all those who served in leadership roles over the years! We eagerly await what God will do among us to gather women together within the congregation as new leadership emerges! This is already happening, so stay tuned!

Young Life/Wyldlife



After this long season of having to be guarded and even isolated, of grieving and waiting, of praying and hoping, we are all relieved to see spring arrive! Don't we all crave

HOPE – the assurance that things will be good in the future? It seems that everyone has been impacted in a significant way by the circumstances, rhetoric and reality of the pandemic. These could easily lead an adult to despair; but, as the chairman of Young Life in the Northern Neck, I'm particularly trying to understand how kids have been, and will continue to be, impacted. Education, sports, camps, dances, parties; even dating has been turned upside down this year. Things may never be the same as before, but everyone, and especially kids, need hope for the future. (Young Life camps will be open this summer!)

Luke 4:18-44, The Passion Translation: Then Jesus said, ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, and he has anointed me to be hope for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, and new eyes for the blind, and to preach to prisoners, 'You are set free!' I have come to share the message of Jubilee, for the time of God's great acceptance has begun.

I think of how people sitting or standing with Jesus might have reacted to his statement (documented by Luke in chapter 4, the Passion Translation*) when he said, "I've been anointed to bring HOPE." It was, just like now, a commodity that was in short supply! "To bring healing to the broken hearted." Who doesn't need that? "To give new eyes/perspective to the blind." "To preach the Good News to prisoners and the opening of prison doors to the captives." Those shackled by circumstances, emotions, memories, trauma, and anxiety heard HOPE in his voice! Wow!

This is the same message that Young Life carries to middle and high school students, many of whom have very little hope for themselves or their futures. Young Life demonstrates that someone cares for them where they are, as they are. Our staff and volunteers spend time, earning the right to be heard, so that kids might become receptive to the message and, most importantly, want to meet and follow Jesus; the One who loves them best of all and who will help them navigate every season of life; the One who is HOPE!

In season and out, the needs in our teens continue, so, we are praying that those who are able, will help us maintain our missionary presence in Northumberland schools. Katy Neely is our local missionary to teens. Through her and our other committed volunteers, the lives of teens are being changed, prison doors are swinging open, healing is on the way and there is HOPE!

For the second year, we have been unable to hold our spring banquets, but we have HOPE that, by adapting, we will be able to reach and touch people with a heart for Jesus, missions and kids and reach our goal.

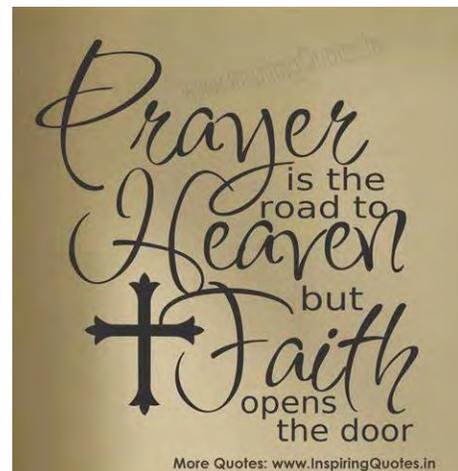
You will soon receive a mailing describing all that is and has happened this year and asking you to join us in sharing the Good News with teens. We HOPE that you will prayerfully read the letter and then respond as the Lord leads. We will be making follow up phone calls on Saturday, April 17th.

Young Life/WyldLife functions only in communities who have invited it to come and who are able to sustain the ministry financially. We're excited to share this ministry with you and HOPE FULL about it's fruit here!

We give God All the Glory!

Jeanne Hickey

For more information about Young Life and its numerous mission outreach see www.younglife.org.





The Northern Neck Christian School Presented a Spring Program at Zion Church

The NNKCS students presented a beautiful program at Zion Church on March 14, 2021. It was similar to the program presented at Light of Christ in December. However, we added more Bible verses, sang and rang “Jesus Loves Me”, sang a song taught to the students by the LOC missionary to Asia. The title in English is “Thank you Jesus”, in Nepalese it is “Dhanyabad Yasu”. The students sang all verses in Nepalese.



BATTER UP!!!

The NNKCS is sponsoring two Little League T-Ball teams for the 2021 season. We plan on meeting lots of parents and talking to them about registering their child for the 2021-2022 school year.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

- Apr. 1 David Gwaltney (Maundy Thursday)
- Apr. 2 David Gwaltney (Good Friday)
- Apr. 4 David Gwaltney (Easter)
- Apr. 11 Ed Feddeman
- Apr. 18 David Gwaltney
- Apr. 25 David Gwaltney

Lesson Readers

- Apr. 1 Joan Blackstone (L) Tony Blackstone (P)
- Apr. 2 Ed Feddeman (L) Constance McDearmon (P)
- Apr. 4 Jim Conley (L) Lyn Conley (P)
- Apr. 11 Jeanne Hickey (L) Bart Morrison (P)
- Apr. 18 Julie Pritchard (L) Ed Feddeman (P)
- Apr. 25 Teresa Moffitt (L) Sandi War (P)

Altar Guild

- Apr. 1 Anna Brennan (Maundy Thursday)
- Apr. 2 Anna Brennan (Good Friday)
- Apr. 4 Anna Brennan (Easter)
- Apr. 11 Suzy Norman
- Apr. 18 Wendy Smith
- Apr. 25 Julie Pritchard

April Birthdays

- Apr. 1 Michael Nguyen
- Apr. 2 Chris Cralle
- Apr. 3 Eleanor Semerjian
- Apr. 6 William Ressler
- Apr. 9 Bobby Edmonds
- Apr. 15 Susan Moore
- Apr. 19 Sally Custer
- Apr. 22 Agnes Burke
- Apr. 28 Edward Ulfig

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants named above, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

- Apr. 1 Constance McDearmon
- Apr. 2 Bart Morrison
- Apr. 4 Tony Blackstone
- Apr. 11 Suzy Norman
- Apr. 18 Tom Zamaria
- Apr. 25 Lucy Logan

Tellers

- Apr. 1 Betty Dillingham
- Apr. 2 Betty Billingham
- Apr. 4 Betty Dillingham
- Apr. 11 Betty Dillingham, Jan Beckett
- Apr. 18 Betty Dillingham, Pam Smith
- Apr. 25 Betty Dillingham

Vestry Person on Duty

- Apr. 1 George Beckett
- Apr. 2 Anna Brennan
- Apr. 4 Ed Feddeman, George Beckett
- Apr. 11 Doug Ludeman, Anna Brennan
- Apr. 18 Sandi Ward, George Beckett
- Apr. 25 Ed Feddeman, Anna Brennan



April Anniversaries

- Apr. 1 Charlaine and Bill Andrulot
- Apr. 9 Lydia and Vincent Haynie
- Apr. 28 Doug and Courtney Ludeman

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon these your servants as they begin another year, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.

The Beacon

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*The deadline for the Beacon is the
third Sunday of each month.*
Suzy Norman, Editor



Happy
Easter!