

MARCH 2023

TIDINGS

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, North Carolina



FORGIVING SINS, SHARING PEACE

Forgiveness is not just for Lent, of course, but it does take center stage these forty days. Yes, we petition for forgiveness each time the Lord's Prayer passes our lips, and in the Confession of Sin each Sunday, our sins take more shape: "things done and left undone," and so on. Occasionally we sing hymns that shed even more detail on types of sin.

I don't know Rosamond E. Herklots, but I can tell she had a deep faith and a knowledge of human nature...and the nature of sin itself. As a child of missionaries to India, and later as writer of many hymns in the 1940s, she submitted entries for the 'Hymns for Britain' competition in 1968, two of which reached the finals and were sung on television. One of them we just sang on Ash Wednesday: "Forgive our sins as we forgive."*

1. 'Forgive our sins as we forgive,' you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

The Litany of Penitence expounds our confession even more (pg 7), but the words of this hymn deserve a deeper dive.

From verse 1, 'living the words we say' is a way of saying we can't do forgiveness and repentance alone. First, we need God's grace and strength. Second, we travel with others from whom we receive examples of forgiveness and with whom we share our forgiving examples. We learn and are strengthened by others.

From verse 2: brooding on wrongs. We can do this all too much. I certainly carry the pain of being wronged. I wonder who broods on the wrongs I have committed? Or the bitterness that will not depart my mind and soul—infesting me, bringing me down. This Lent, may we all have the grace to let go of wrongs and bitterness.

From verse 3: trivial debts owed to us and our great debts to God. Maybe these words reflect the parable of Matthew 18:21-35, or maybe they simply share the reality we all know: we have sinned against God far, far more than others have sinned against us. This Lent, gain some perspective and live as St. Francis suggested: not seeking forgiveness, but giving forgiveness.

From verse 4: bonds of love. Those bonds of love form our relationships in family, church, community, and with them we learn to make amends, forgive, and move on together—together spreading God's peace (as the hymn ending words convey). When we pass the peace in church on Sundays, we begin the work of love and peace. As we pass peace with people outside of church, we pass the peace even more.

Yes, may we by God's grace live the words we say.

God's Peace, *Rob+*

*"Rosamond Herklots." The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology. Canterbury Press, accessed February 23, 2023, <http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/rosamond-herklots>.

STATS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 BILL NEWBOLD
- 1 LINDA WOOD
- 1 NAN GREGORY
- 3 BILL PUMP
- 3 MITCHELL ACHEY
- 3 CORABEL SHOFNER
- 5 MARSHA GOODMAN
- 6 LAMAR COLE
- 6 JUDY BROOKFIELD
- 6 MARILEE LIPINSKI
- 7 SHUG SOLDO
- 8 SCOTT TURNER
- 9 CARY MCKINNEY
- 10 DICK MEYERS
- 11 CAROLINE RIVERS
- 11 MINOTT RIVERS
- 14 LIZ LANE
- 15 BRIEN PETERKIN
- 15 LINDA QUICK
- 17 SALLIE PETERKIN
- 17 ROBERT JOHNSON
- 19 ANN HOYERMAN
- 20 CRIS HAYES
- 21 JIM MANLEY
- 21 ANN LEA
- 22 WALLY SEINSHEIMER
- 22 POLLY USELTON
- 23 MARY FREEMAN
- 23 KEN MEYER
- 24 WINIFRED DAVIS
- 24 MARGARET WASSON
- 24 BILL CANBY
- 26 BRAD VANVICK
- 26 BRUCE VORSANGER
- 28 ALICE STANLY
- 29 LINDA STONE
- 30 RALPH GREENE
- 30 ZOE ZIMMER
- 31 MAIZIE BELSER
- 31 RACHEL DYER

TRANSFERS

Transfer In

Todd Broadbridge

Transfer Out

Malinda Allen

SHROVE SUNDAY



MARDI GRAS



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 TIM & JULIA BOEVE
- 8 JEFF & JENNIFER RUSSELL
- 9 WELDON & MICHELLE HOLCOMBE
- 17 THOMAS & PAMELA STIRES

- 17 THOMAS & BUFF ADAMS
- 19 BOB & MILLIE LATHAN
- 23 ROB & CAROL HUNTER

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS MISSING PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN AT 828-743-2359 OR GOODSHEPADMIN@FRONTIER.COM



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JOSÉ

February 27, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."
1 Corinthians 1:4*

Every year, the Executive Council of the Diocese of Western North Carolina goes on an annual retreat in February. At this retreat, the council gathers to pray, build community, discern the movement of the Holy Spirit in the life of the diocese, reflect on leadership and attend to items of business.

In particular, each year at the February meeting, the Executive Council takes the budget approved by Diocesan Convention in November, and with additional year-end input from Fiscal Ministries, they pass a final budget for the current fiscal year. This process of finalizing the budget takes into consideration any potential shifts due to a variety of anticipated or unforeseen circumstances, which includes receiving final pledge amounts from parishes the end of December.

The 2023 budget presented to Diocesan Convention in November of 2022 anticipated a decrease in average pledged income from all parishes and budgeted for a 5-year average of 9.3%. This budget also reflected a more conservative return on investment income. Likewise, the budget passed by Convention reflected a commitment to steward the resources entrusted to us by each of our congregations and at the same time support the vital mission we share together as a Diocese.

I am thrilled to share that parish pledges have come in at 9.84% which is above what we budgeted. Additionally, based on the summary of our 2021 diocesan Parochial Report, the average household pledge to their local parish increased by 18%. While I know that this average increase may not be the case for some churches, I am humbled by the very real spirit of generosity that is present in all parishes across our diocese. Every faith community in the Diocese of Western North Carolina is stepping out in faith, trusting one another, trusting me and diocesan leadership, and most importantly, trusting God.

Your faithful support of our common mission will equip us to provide the highest number of grants, for a total of \$213,500 in available funds, to our parishes so they can share the love of Jesus and meet the needs of their communities. Specifically, there will be a record available funding to support the following mission areas of the diocese:

- Small Parish Support
- Congregational Vitality
- Human Hurt and Hope Ministry Initiatives
- Enhanced Communications
- Beloved Community

Through your generosity, we are able to not only sustain the various ministry initiatives that are a hallmark of our diocese, like the Blue Ridge Service Corps and our Barrier Breakers – the Pilgrimage, but now, together, our churches can discern more ways to share the Good News of God's love for all people, promoting welcome and belonging, justice and mercy.

I am so thankful to be in ministry together with you and witness your generosity and faithfulness in following the way of Jesus.

Faithfully,

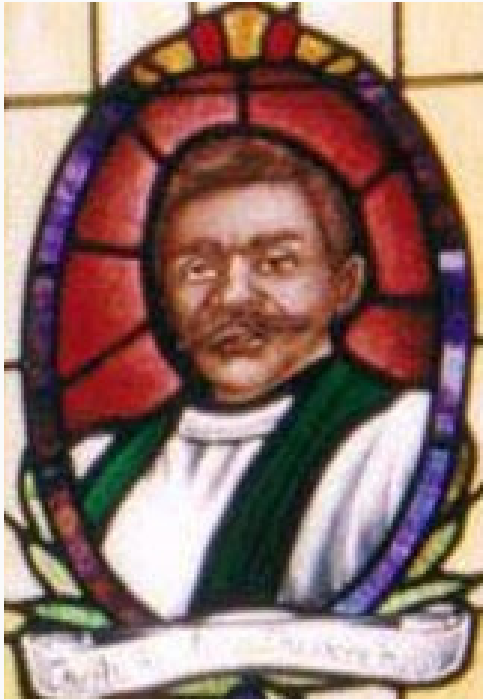


The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin
Bishop



HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN OF MARCH

James Theodore Holly - Bishop of Haiti and the Dominican Republic March 13, 1911



Most gracious God, whose servant James Theodore Holly labored to build a church in which all might be free: Grant that we might overcome our prejudice, and honor those whom you call from every family, language, people, and nation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

James Theodore Holly was the first Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Bishop Holly was born in 18 29 in Washington, D.C. a descendent of free slaves. At fourteen his family relocated to Brooklyn. After meeting Frederick Douglass and others in 1848 he began working as an abolitionist. After a dispute over the ordination of black clergy, Holly left the Catholic Church and joined the Episcopal Church in 1851. He studied theology and received holy orders as a deacon on June 17, 1855 at St. Mathew's Church, Detroit. The following year, on January 2, 1856, he was ordained a priest at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, New Haven, Connecticut. Even as he continued his religious work, Holly was drawn toward emigration, believing that African Americans had no future in the United States.

In 1854 he was a delegate to the first Emigration Convention held in Cleveland. He continued to explore the possibility of establishing a mission in Haiti for the Episcopal Church and co-founded the Protestant Episcopal Society for Promoting the Extension of the Church Among Colored People, which challenged the Church to take a position at General Convention against slavery. This organization eventually became the Union of Black Episcopalians. From 1856 to 1861, Rev. Holly served as priest at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and as a teacher and principal in public and private schools until 1861. Holly believed that bringing Anglicanism to Haiti would stabilize and develop the country more expeditiously. Holly resigned from his position at St. Luke's in 1861 and took 110 people with him to Haiti. Many were congregants of St. Luke's and subscribed to Holly's vision.

Despite the obstacles, they did succeed in Haiti. Disease and poor living conditions plagued them (forty-three members died of yellow fever and malaria during the first year, including his mother, wife and two of his children). Holly remained with the most dedicated to establish schools, a church, and programs in pastoral training and countryside medicine. He also trained young priests and started congregations in the countryside. In 1862 Holly became a Haitian citizen but returned to the United States hoping for financial support to establish a mission station. In 1865 after many denied requests, he received limited sponsorship from the Board of Missions for his work After serving as consul for Liberia at Port-au-Prince from 1864 to 1874, Holly was consecrated missionary bishop to Haiti at Grace Episcopal Church in New York City, becoming the first African American bishop in the Episcopal Church. As bishop, Holly served as a delegate to the Lambeth conference in England. He received a doctoral degree from Howard University and an honorary law degree from Liberia College, Monrovia. James Theodore Holly died in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on March 13, 1911 and is buried on the grounds of St. Vincent's School for Handicapped Children in Port-au-Prince.



HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN OF MARCH

Oscar Arnulfo Romero and the martyrs of El Salvador **Archbishop of San Salvador** **March 24, 1980**



Almighty God, you called your servant Óscar Romero to be a voice for the voiceless poor, and to give his life as a seed of freedom and a sign of hope: Grant that we, inspired by his sacrifice and the example of the martyrs of El Salvador, may without fear or favor witness to your Word who abides, your Word who is Life, even Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be praise and glory now and forever. Amen

Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez was born on August 15, 1917. He is commonly known as Monseñor Romero. He was a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador and later became archbishop of San Salvador.

As an archbishop, Romero witnessed numerous violations of human rights and began a ministry speaking out on behalf of the poor and victims of the country's civil war. His brand of political activism was denounced by the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church and the government of El Salvador. In 1980, he was assassinated

while consecrating the Eucharist during Mass. His death provoked international outcry for human rights reform in El Salvador.

In 1997, a cause for beatification and canonization into sainthood was opened for Romero and Pope John Paul II bestowed upon him the title of Servant of God. Pope Francis canonized Romero as a saint on 14 October 2018. He is considered the unofficial patron saint of the Americas and El Salvador and is often referred to as "San Romero" in El Salvador. Outside of Catholicism Romero is honored by other religious denominations of Christendom, like the Church of England through its Common Worship. He is one of the ten 20th-century martyrs from across the world who are depicted in statues above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey, London.

Also commemorated on this day are three Maryknoll nuns and a woman lay missionary killed by a Salvadoran army death squad on 2 Dec, 1980, and additionally six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter, who were also murdered by the Salvadoran army on 16 Nov. 1989



HOLY LENT

[Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare them by a season of penitence and fasting....

... therefore, in the name of the Church, ... to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.Book of Common Prayer pages 264, 265]

The Church calls us to an observance of a holy Lent.... and what exactly does that even mean? Recall that after Jesus' baptism by John in the River Jordan the voice of God says, 'this is my beloved, my son'. Then right away Jesus goes out into the Judean wilderness for 40 days. During this time of fasting and prayer Jesus faced temptation by the devil, the evil one. At the end of those 40 days he returned ready for ministry. Sure of his mission, clear in his direction.

We too at our baptism are called beloved of God and marked as Christ's own forever. So in these days of Lent we hear God calling us all into the wilderness, remembering we too are beloved of God. We are beloved of God, encouraged by God, to trust in the love of God to hold and protect us, as we find our way through self-examination and repentance in these 40 days.

May we use these days of Lent to hear maybe for the first time, or the first in a long time, God calling us each by name and leading us through our time of trial. The practices of Lent; prayer, fasting, and self-denial restore our humanity and our humility and allow us again to live with intention and purpose. Our fasting restores and deepens our relationship with God and others. In self-denial we pay closer attention to our relationships. The Holy Spirit directs us, as it did Jesus, toward the love God has for us.

Prayer, fasting, and self-denial are not meant to punish. Prayer, fasting, and self-denial are gifts to connect us to the love God has for us. They are the very means, the grace by which we know we are loved. Beloved we try daily, with that holy help, to let go of the distractions of our day. Is that certain foods, is it social media? It is any behavior that takes the place of prayer, a distraction that tries to take the place of relationships between God and all others and the world.

We are assisted by reading and meditating on God's word. Holy scripture helps put us in the mind of Christ, gently directing us toward God. Lent is not a time of punishment or recrimination. A holy Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. trusting God to love and care for us. Leading us through the wilderness to refreshment and resurrection. May it be so. Amen.



LITANY OF PENITENCE

from the Book of Common Prayer, page 267

Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;

by what we have done, and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart,
and mind, and strength. We have not loved our
neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others,
as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ
served us. We have not been true to the mind of
Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our
exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of
those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure
to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have
done: for our blindness to human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts
toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and
contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our
lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord,
and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his
resurrection.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who
desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they
may turn from their wickedness and live, has given
power and commandment to his ministers to declare
and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the
absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and
absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere
hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance
and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him
which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life
hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we
may come to his eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Reverend Robert B. Wood, Rector
rwood.gs@gmail.com
The Reverend Alison Schultz, Assistant Rector
The Reverend Toby Summerour, Adjunct Priest
The Reverend Steve Hines, Adjunct Priest

Church of the Good Shepherd
Post Office Box 32
Cashiers, North Carolina 28717

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREENVILLE, SC
PERMIT NO. 7

Vestry Officers:

Laura Lankford, Senior Warden Peter Keck, Junior Warden
Irv Welling, Treasurer Ellen Albright, Clerk

Vestry:

Doreen Hastings Lynn Jones Sharon Stricker
Mark Quick Vic Brandt Fred Halback
Ruth Russ Kate Gholston
Kevin Rowland Rose Mary Achey

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Staff:

Ellen Albright, Parish Administrator
goodshepadmin@frontier.com
Christy Banks, Finance & Accounts Manager
Michael Yannette, Director of Music
Donna Patton, Nursery & Office Assistant
Skip Ryan, Bazaar Barn Manager
Cari Sanders, Communications Director

Church Phone: (828)743-2359

Website: www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

HOLY WEEK 2023 SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

9:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
11:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
2:00 pm Cashiers Community Chorus Lenten Cantata
 At the Village Green Commons

MONDAY, APRIL 3

12:00 pm Community Service – Glenville Wesleyan Church
 Service Location: 5323 Hwy 107N, Glenville

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

12:00 pm Community Service – Grace Community Church
 Service Location: 242 Hwy 107N; Cashiers
3:00 pm Stations with Mary – Good Shepherd

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

12:00 pm Community Service – Christ Church of the Valley
 Service Location: 118 Hwy 64W; Cashiers
5:30 pm Seder Supper, Hines Hall
The Jewish Seder is a remembrance of the ancient story of Israel's redemption from bondage in Egypt. For Christians the purpose of this meal is to recall the events that led to our exodus from the slavery of sin through Jesus Christ. As this is a catered meal, reservations are required!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

12:00 pm Community Service – Cashiers United Methodist Church
 Service Location: 894 Hwy 107S; Cashiers
 No Noon Service at Good Shepherd
5:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II, & stripping of altar

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

12:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy – Church of the Good Shepherd
4:00 pm Community Stations of the Cross (Village Green Commons)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

7:00 am Community Sunrise Service – Village Green Commons
8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II