

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

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Lent - March, 2012

"What will you give me if I betray him to you?" [Matthew 26:14]

These are the words for Matthew's account of the Passion as sometimes selected by the Revised Common Lectionary for Palm/Passion Sunday. They are chilling words that make us wonder as to why in the world Judas Iscariot would do such a thing.

Novelists, filmmakers, psychologists and Biblical scholars (and all permutations of those categories) have proffered many motives. The reasons range from greed to religious duty in stopping a false prophet or over zealousness; from demonic possession to divine obedience or divine obligation. Depending upon which passage of scripture the speculator chooses to emphasize the conjecture as to motive varies greatly.

Although speculation is entertaining and can be profitable for filmmakers, this is another one of those situations where the Bible remains fairly vague. Mark, in his Gospel account, gives no specific motive; Matthew implies greed; Luke and John lean toward satanic possession. John does specifically call him a thief, making corruption of character a possible motive, but the Bible on the whole does not offer a very clear or integrated profile of Judas' motives. Most of what we think about Judas stems from tradition.

It always seems to me that when the Bible is vague about a particular event, that perhaps the reason the event was recorded is to cause the

reader to examine the Biblical situation and to see how it is tangential to the reader's life situation. In this specific case: it isn't important that Christians know why Judas betrayed Jesus, it is to raise and answer the important question of why Christians continue to betray him. Simply, it's not why in the world would Judas do such a thing; it's how and why do I?

Certainly we may not be as bold as Judas was in asking what's in it (the betrayal of Jesus) for me. Nevertheless, the question for a Christian is why do I betray him with my greed or self-righteousness or religious fanaticism or attitude of moral superiority? And the reality is, we do betray him.

Shunning the disenfranchised of society is betraying Jesus and his ministry. Neglecting the poor is betraying Jesus and his ministry. Turning a blind eye to society's treatment of children is betraying Jesus and his ministry. Ignoring injustice is betraying Jesus and his ministry.

The importance of reading Judas' question for the start of Holy Week is that it draws my attention to my acts of betrayal, not only of Jesus but also of the salvific act he has brought to us. The importance of reading Judas' question forces me to examine my persistent peccadilloes that tap the nails further in as well as my grievous sins that pound them in. The importance of reading Judas' question compels me to recognize and do something about my acts of betrayal.

The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz

Lent, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I give thanks for the faithful, inspiring, and compassionate witness which I see in my travels throughout The Episcopal Church. Mission born of deep listening and responding to local and international needs continues to blossom in innovative ways throughout the Church. I am heartened to see how the Holy Spirit continues to move among us.

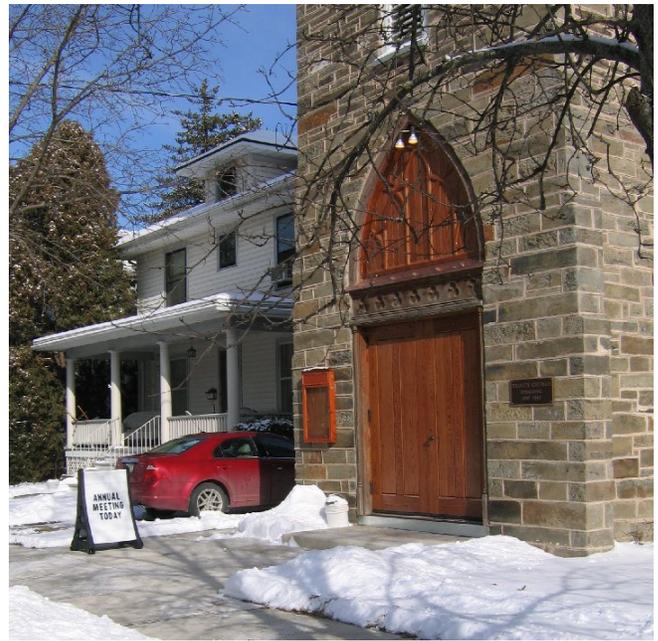
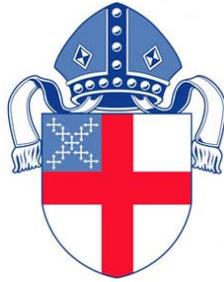
This year marks the 90th anniversary of the annual Good Friday Offering. Since 1922 this ministry of The Episcopal Church has consistently provided solidarity with, and financial support for, our sisters and brothers throughout the Episcopal-Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. You are well aware of the social and political challenges which exist for Christians and their neighbors in this region. You may be less aware that the bishops, clergy, and people of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East sponsor, support, and sustain many institutions of compassion, healing, and education throughout the Province.

The Good Friday Offering provides essential funding to strengthen the visibility and vitality of the Christian presence through the schools, hospitals, clinics, and churches which bear witness each day to the reconciling love of God in Christ for all people, whether Christian, Muslim, or Jew.

This annual appeal is a unique spiritual opportunity to continue Jesus' work in the land of his birth and earthly ministry. Please join me in continuing that incarnate presence of love and healing. I remain

Your servant in Christ,

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church



New Signs for Trinity

The picture above was taken on the day of our Annual Meeting in January and shows both of our new signs, as well as the new front doors and tracery. (And it shows snow; for those of us thinking we haven't had much of a winter, here's at least some evidence).

The glass and wood sign on the church was crafted by Jack Strange. It now has black backing and white letters with our service times and other information. Our senior warden, Dan Gerhart, arranged to purchase the standing sign as well as the lettering for both signs. Many thanks to both Jack and Dan for making Trinity more visible and more welcoming.

Walkabout

There will be a walk-through of the church building one afternoon the week of March 5-9 to really take a look at things and make a list of tasks we need to complete. The more people who take part in this, the more complete the list will be. If you'd like to join us for an hour next week, please let Barbara or Dan know.

Once the list is made, the Vestry will prioritize the items and arrange for work to be done. Your taking part in the walk-through doesn't require any commitment other than just looking and making suggestions. Please join us!



Trinity Episcopal Church - March 2012

Lent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p><i>Trinity Cycle of Prayer 3/4</i> Tom, Lori, Derek and Lauren Pruyne. 3/11 Hermine Shapiro, Roger and Mary Ann Smith; 3/18 John and Barbara Strange. 3/25 Kathy, Alexandra and Jonathan Ayres.</p>		<p><i>Diocesan Cycle of Prayer 3/4:</i> Epiphany, Clarks Summit: The Rev. Craig Sweeney, Rector; The Stewardship Commission. 3/11: Prince of Peace, Dallas & Trinity, West Pittston: The Rev. John Major, Rector. 3/18: St. Gabriel's, Douglassville: The Rev. Sally Bosler, Deacon. 3/25: St. James', Drifton & St. Peter's, Hazleton: The Rev. Jeffrey L. Funk, Rector, Deacon</p>			1	2	<p>3 Lent 2 5:00 Deacon's Mass</p>
<p>4 Lent 2 9:00 - Holy Eucharist I 10:00 - Coffee Hour</p> <p><i>Greg Lake</i></p>	<p>5 AA 8:00 pm</p> <p><i>Trula Hollywood</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Evelyn Johnson</i></p>	<p>7 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Pashley</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Bonnie Bailey</i></p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10 Lent 3 5:00 Deacon's Mass Set your clocks forward one hour <i>Jan Beck, Jack Forbes Gage Streeter</i></p>	
<p>11 Lent 3 9:00 - Holy Eucharist I 10:00 - Coffee Hour</p>	<p>12 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Keith Hollywood Barbara Caum</i></p>	<p>14 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>15 Clergy Day, St. Stephen's, W-B</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Lent 4 5:00 Deacon's Mass Bishop's Beach Party, St. Stephen's</p>	
<p>18 Lent 4 9:00 - Holy Eucharist I 10:00 - Coffee Hour ---Vestry Meets--- <i>Mike Barry, Judy Phillips Leigha Draper</i></p>	<p>19 St. Joseph AA 8:00 pm</p> <p><i>Mary Tolbert</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Peter Cama</i></p>	<p>21 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p> <p><i>Rick Bubniak</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>William Wood Maureen Kohnken</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Lent 5 5:00 Deacon's Mass Diocesan Training Day, St. Stephen's</p>	
<p>25 Lent 5 9:00 - Holy Eucharist I 10:00 - Coffee Hour</p> <p><i>Jeff Johnson</i></p>	<p>26 The Annunciation AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>27 3 p.m. Clergy Bible Study, Towanda</p> <p><i>Robert Bean Mary Ann Burke</i></p>	<p>28 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p> <p><i>Mary Beth Paul</i></p>	<p>29 Chrism Mass, Cathedral, 11 a.m.</p> <p><i>Joe and Laura Cama</i></p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Propers for Palm Sunday 5:00 Deacon's Mass</p> 	
<p><i>Anglicans Around the World 3/4:</i> The Church of England: The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Dr. Rowan Douglas Williams Archbishop of Canterbury. 3/11: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui: The Most Rev. Dr. Paul Kwong Archbishop. 3/18: The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean: The Most Rev. Ian Gerald James Ernest Archbishop. 3/25: The Church of Ireland: The Most Rev. Alan Edwin Thomas Harper Archbishop.</p>		<p><i>Kajo Keji: 3/4:</i> Kigwo: Deacon Abraham Banga Moji; Bishop Anthony Poggo, 3/11: St. John's, Lukura: The Rev. David Duku, Deacon Silivian Kiden. Bishop's Staff. 3/18: St. Peter's, Limi: The Rev. Moses Logiron. Romoggi Secondary School: The Rev. Eluzai Loboka and Committee. 3/25: St. Philip's, Wudu Town: The Rev. Sadraka Muni, Deacon Kwoji Sam. Mother's Union: Jane Poggo, The Rev. Mary Basa, The Rev. Silivian Kiden.</p>			<p>Holy Week Begins with Palm Sunday, April 1. The Great Vigil, April 7, at 7 with special music. Easter is April 8.</p>		

March Highlights

Worship During Lent: In keeping with our tradition as well as observing the solemn nature of the season, our Sunday Eucharist is Rite I with the Willan mass settings. We have removed some of the ornamentation from the building to make the church a bit plainer as well. Join us Sunday mornings for Rite I with music or Saturdays at 5 for our spoken Deacon's Mass.



March 10th: Daylight Saving Time begins. Set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night. Yes, we lose an hour of sleep, but gain some light at the end of the day, which is a welcome thing.

March 18th: Vestry Meets

March 24th: Diocesan Training Day, St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre. This yearly event features workshops and training for ministry. You will find more information in your March issue of *Diocesan Life*, which you should have received this week. You can register at www.diobeth.org.

March 29th: Chrism Mass, 11 a.m., Cathedral Church of the Nativity. The yearly blessing of oils and renewal of ordination vows by our clergy is a lovely event. If you choose to make the trip, it is well worth it. This year will also include a professional choir, music by Haydn, Palestrina, Byrd, Wagner and a free lunch. Plan to attend if you can.

Holy Week begins the weekend of March 31-April 1. The Deacon's Mass will include the Liturgy of the Palms as will Sunday morning's service. We will

read the Passion in parts, which we'll hand out on March 25th. We have tentatively planned hold Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at Grace Church, Waverly. Holy Saturday's Great Vigil will be at Trinity with some amazing vocal and instrumental music planned. Easter morning will also be at Trinity at the regular time. More details in the April Newsletter.

Vestry News

We will be converting both the church and rectory to natural gas heat in May. This will save us about 60 percent a year in heating costs; the cost of the changeover will pay for itself in one year. Thanks to the vestry for being such good stewards.

We are in need of a Junior Warden. This person oversees the buildings and brings any issues to the vestry to make sure repairs get done. The Junior Warden does not do the actual work unless he or she chooses to. Consider if you might have some time to spend a few hours a month keeping track of the needs of our physical plant.

Trinity Times: Thanks to those of you who receive this newsletter in your email! You are saving trees and postage and it really does look better in color. If you have an email address, please send it to Barbara at information@trinityathens.org.

For now we will continue to publish the newsletter once a month with the exception of a July-August combined edition. Thank you all for your input.

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March at Trinity