

the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



March 2024

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

Easter is just around the corner. It is early this year, as it shifts around according to a lunar calendar. Easter is officially the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox, which is March 19. This makes Easter a “moveable feast” which I always imagined as being a meal on the go of some kind.

How did that become the planning method for Easter? Easter is tied to the Jewish feast of Passover. As the Gospels describe, Jesus was in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. And so rather than choosing a fixed day to commemorate the events of Easter, one feast was tied to another. I was reading some materials about this facet of Easter, and one writer opined that Jesus was following the traditions of Passover because he was being cautious. He was following the “old ways” for a while so that he could then overthrow those traditions at another time. Honestly, that is misguided rhetoric.

Jesus was not following the ways of Judaism as a stealth Christian waiting for the right moment for a big reveal. He and the disciples were Jewish—as simple as that. Jesus may have offered divergent, even radical, interpretations of some Jewish traditions, but arguably no more so than two Christians wrangling over whether you should be baptized at birth or at coming of age. Christianity diverged from Judaism not because of what Jesus said or taught, but because of what subsequent followers said and taught. Centuries later that split turned ugly. Anti-Jewish thinking entered the Christian tradition.

That long, dark chapter of Christianity probably would have made Jesus weep. He was and is a Jewish prophet, and more, but his words were not intended to displace the Hebrew scriptures but to embrace them even as he reinterpreted them. And that ancient tradition was alive with change before Jesus started his ministry in the world, as when Micah proclaimed a now familiar message: For what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

God bless,
~*Mark*

In Memoriam

Edith “Teedy” LaCroix (Knowles) Dabney
June 30, 1930 – February 20, 2024.

March 3

Sermon: The Ten Commandments
Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-17, John 2:13-22, Psalm 19
Scripture Reader: Mark Chadbourne
Usher: Lisle Baker
Coffee Hour: Vicky and Westy Saltonstall
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Susan Saltonstall Byrd by the Byrd family.

March 10

Sermon: Look Over Here
Scriptures: Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21, Psalm 107
Scripture Reader: Carol Lohe
Usher: Werner Lohe
Coffee Hour: Carol and Werner Lohe
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Anne & Werner Lohe and Rita & Harry Troyen by their family.

March 17

Sermon: Rev. Hank Pierce will be our visiting minister
Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33, Psalm 51
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks
Usher: Mark Chadbourne
Coffee Hour: Andrew Welch
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.

March 24 (Palm Sunday)

Sermon: Palm Sunday
Scriptures: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 31
Scripture Reader: Rev. Mark
Usher: John Welch
Coffee Hour: Linda and Joe Hicks
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of and gratitude for our parents by Joe and Linda Hicks.

March 29 (Good Friday)

Sermon: Good Friday
Scriptures: John 18:1-19:42, Psalm 22
Scripture Readers: Lisle Baker and Joe Hicks

March 31 (Easter Sunday)

Sermon: Easter Sunday
Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9, Mark 16:1-8, Psalm 118
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane
Usher: Bert Dane
Coffee Hour: Easter Breakfast
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest B. Dane and Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dane by Sally & Bert Dane.

MARCH MUSIC

March 3, 2024

Prelude	Fantasia	Toccata
Anthem	How Beautiful are the feet of Him	Handel
Hymn 1	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past	
Response	Now Let Us Come Before Him	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O holy Father, infinite in mercy	Palestrina
Hymn 216	Lead, Kindly Light	
Hymn 21	We Gather Together	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Toccata	Froberger

March 10, 2024

Prelude	Fugue in G minor	Handel
Anthem	Though knowest, Lord	Purcell
Hymn 383	Forward Through the Ages	
Response	Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me	Bach
Offertory Anthem	God So Loved the World	Stainer
Hymn 365	Faith of Our Fathers	
Hymn 352	Lift Up Your Hearts	
Choral Amen	Fourfold Amen	Barrow
Postlude	Sonata in C	Handel

March 17, 2024

Prelude	Nun lob mein Seel' den Herrn	Buxtehude
Anthem	Teach me, O Lord	Attwood
Hymn 7	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	
Response	Once He Came in Blessing	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Turn Thy face from my sins	Sullivan
Hymn 358	Rock of Ages	
Hymn 8	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	
Choral Amen	Old Irish Blessing	Agay
Postlude	Toccata in G	Buxtehude

March 24, 2024 (Palm Sunday)

Prelude	Da pacem, Domine	Sweelinck
Anthem	Fanfare for Palm Sunday	Davis
Hymn 156	Draw Nigh to Thy Jerusalem	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	
Offertory Anthem	O Glorious King, in Triumph Rise	Williams
Hymn 175	Ride on, Ride on in Majesty	
Hymn 155	All Glory, Laud and Honor	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Perischetti
Postlude	Toccata	Sweelinck

March 31, 2024 (Easter Sunday)

Prelude	2 Miniatures	Peeters
	Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme	Krebs
	My Spirit Be Joyful	Bach
	Tony Serio, trumpet	
Anthem	Worthy is the Lamb/Amen	Handel
Hymn 182	Christ the Lord is Risen Today	
Response	Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Easter Anthem	Billings
Hymn 185	Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain	
Hymn 187	Jesus Christ is Risen Today	
Choral Amen	The Lord Bless You and Keep You	Lutkin
Postlude	Rondeau	Mouret
	Tony Serio, trumpet	

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

This year the Quartet will be performing Worthy is the Lamb from Handel's Messiah. I hope you can join us for the performance of this major work.

FCCH IN THE COMMUNITY

During March and April, we are once again hosting a diaper drive (sizes 4-7) for the Centre Street Food Pantry. For families with babies and toddlers who rely on Centre Street every month for food, diapers and other personal care products, diapers are greatly appreciated since they are not covered by the federal SNAP food program. In 2023, Centre Street purchased over than \$30,000 dollars of diapers at retail price. Any donations that we can make will offset this expense and allow Centre Street to apply their funds towards purchases of fresh food and other personal care items that families also rely upon.

Please drop off your donation in the parish hall or any time on the Baker's side porch at 137 Suffolk Rd., Chestnut Hill. Thank you!

Looking ahead to May, please mark your calendar for our annual invasive weed pull in the Houghton Garden on Sunday, May 5 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Easter Breakfast: On Sunday, March 31, at 9 am, we'll celebrate Easter together with a community breakfast. We'll be sending an email out soon inviting RSVPs and volunteer sign-ups to bring food or lend a hand. Your RSVPs and contributions will help make this a joyful celebration. Please feel free to send any questions to Rev. Mark at (617) 566-6237 or to Victor Strama, our church administrator, at 26suffolk@gmail.com.

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:30 a.m.

Good Friday, March 29, 5:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. (breakfast at 9:00 a.m.).

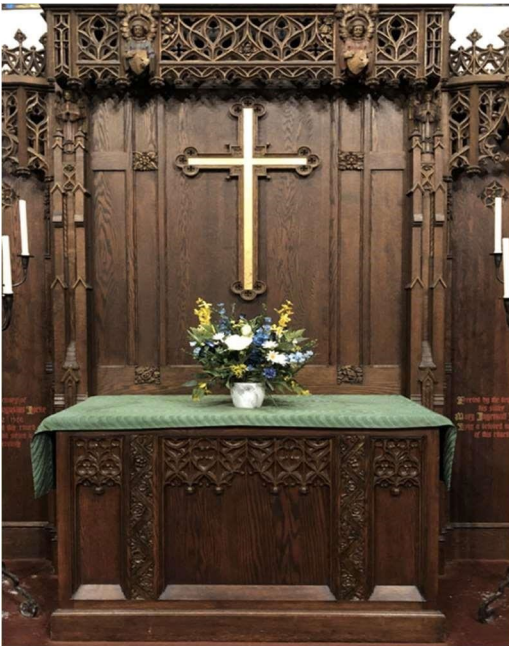
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00am on Wednesdays on Zoom. We are studying the Gospel of Luke. Contact Rev. Mark at mjtcaggiano@gmail.com to be included on the Zoom invitation list. All are welcome.

DONATIONS

Collection has returned to its traditional format during the service. If you wish, you may also make your donation via Zelle or mail a check to the church, Attention: Treasurer, 26 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Many thanks for your anticipated generosity.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Attention flower donors: please contact Dana Flynn (617-680-0702) to coordinate the delivery of your flower donation. He will meet the florist (or you) at the church on the Saturday prior to your date. If you prefer, we also have tasteful silk arrangements which can easily be placed on the altar.

If you would like to donate flowers, multiple dates are still available for the year. Please contact Victor Strama if you are interested at 26suffolk@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS

If you would like to join the group of volunteer scripture readers, please contact Carol Lohe (ctroyen@mfa.org.) This is a rewarding opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

.....
to
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grow spiritually
foster community
serve others

ORGANIST and MUSIC DIRECTOR

Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385

SEXTON

Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

ADMINISTRATOR

26Suffolk@gmail.com

FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH

Please contact Rev. Mark at the church or via email
(mjtcaggiano@gmail.com)



Church Telephone 617-566-6237
Parsonage Telephone 617-232-0011
www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org