

the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



April 2024

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

I was looking around for a topic for this month's bulletin and I noticed that I had never looked at the origin of the term "April." Usually, my April missive is about Easter or Lent or something else from the season leading up to the holiday. April itself is not generally the subject.

April, or *Aprilis*, seems to come from the Latin verb *aperire*, meaning "to open." Like the flowers of the season, April is an opening up of the year from the relative quiet of the winter, or at least the "winter" as experienced on the Italian peninsula. We might style this as the "Month of Opening" or the "Time of Blooming," however the poetic influence takes us.

The names of the month used on the American calendar are carried over from the Roman Empire, even the weird artifacts of Julius Caesar making a month out of his name (July) and, not to be outdone, Augustus Caesar following suit (August). This led to the strange sequencing of September, the "seventh month," becoming the ninth and so forth for October and November.

There was a story a year or so ago about how often American men think about the Roman Empire, which for many was about once per day. That seems a lot, unless you are in my line of work. But the influence of Rome is pervasive. It is seeded into our everyday language even as it is inscribed across our calendars. And just as the written word is filled with Latin, so too are our ideas about the world.

The "nuclear family" as we understand it is squarely Roman. Contemporaries of Rome, like Greece or Judea, often had polygamous marriages. The Bible is filled with references to those, though we seem to have left those behind (no, I am not advocating for a revival by any means). The Romans were unusual in this regard. One theory is that their staunch monogamy arose from the relative egalitarianism between the genders in Roman society—big emphasis of the "relative." Early Christians adopted this model of marriage even as Romans would in time adopt (or co-opt) Christianity.

When we think about the traditions in our society, or in our religious institutions, it is worth remembering that some of these traditions were choices made at that distant point in history. The reasons for the choices are worth remembering and they are worth assessing as we evolve as a society of people making new choices for new times. We do not need to rename the months to ponder what is relevant and meaningful for our current world and way of life.

God bless,
~Mark

April 7

Sermon: The Twin
Scriptures: Acts 4:32-35, John 20:19-31, Psalm 133
Scripture Reader: David Brooks
Usher: David Brooks
Coffee Hour: Jennifer Drayton
Altar Flowers: In honor of the Alley Family of Little Cranberry Island by Deborah and David Brooks.

April 14

Sermon: Witnesses
Scriptures: Acts 3:12-19, Luke 24:36b-48, Psalm 4
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane
Usher: Bert Dane
Coffee Hour: Meghan Baker and Federico Frigerio
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Elizabeth Decker by Richard Byrd.

April 21

Sermon: The Good Shepherd
Scriptures: Acts 4:5-12, John 10:11-18, Psalm 23
Scripture Reader: Lisle Baker
Usher: Lisle Baker
Coffee Hour: Judie Wyman
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.

April 28

Sermon: Vine and Branch
Scriptures: Acts 8:26-40, John 15:1-8, Psalm 22
Scripture Reader: Susan Welch
Usher: John Welch
Coffee Hour: Bettina Abe
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Teedy and Lewis Dabney by their family.

APRIL MUSIC

April 7, 2024

Prelude	3 Miniatures	Peeters
Anthem	Like as the hart desireth the water brooks	Palestrina
Hymn 488	Go Tell it on the Mountain	Bach
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Grant me true courage, Lord	
Hymn 485	This is My Father's World	
Hymn 494	We Would Be Building	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Persichetti
Postlude	Fugue	Seeger

April 14, 2024

Prelude	Adagio	Marcello
	Simple Gifts	Traditional
Anthem	O Thou, from whom all blessings come	Tchaikovsky
Hymn 10	Before Jehovah's Awful Throne	
Response	All Men are but Mortal	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O Lord, Thou hast formed my every part	Bach
Hymn 26	O Be Joyful in the Lord	
Hymn 63	Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing	
Choral Amen	Sevenfold Amen	Stainer
Postlude	Fugue in C	Buxtehude

April 21, 2024

Prelude	Adagio	Bach
	Ave Maria	Bach/Gounod
	Sarah Freiberg, cello	
Hymn 21	We Gather Together	
Response	Awake, My Heart	
Offertory Anthem	O Lord, We Pray	
Hymn 84	The Lord's My Shepherd	
Musical Sermon	Mass in Time of War	Haydn
	Kyrie	
	Gloria	
	Credo	
	Sanctus/Benedictus	
	Agnus Dei	
	Sarah Freiberg, cello	
Hymn 478	All Things Bright and Beautiful	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Bourre I and II	Bach/Schumann

April 28, 2024

Prelude	Meditation	Widor
Anthem	O sing unto the Lord	Hassler
Hymn 38	Morning has Broken	
Response	O Hear, My God, My Pray'r	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O Thou Joy of Loving Hearts	da Vittoria
Hymn 27	Still, Still with Thee	
Hymn 66	For the Beauty of the Earth	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Now Let Us to God, the Lord, Give Thanks	Pachelbel

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

On Sunday April 21, cellist Sarah Freiberg will be joining us for Our Music Sunday. She has played here many times and is our welcomed friend. The Quartet, Sarah Freiberg and I will perform the Haydn Mass in Time of War as a musical sermon. This is such a special occasion. Please plan on attending.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Thursday May 2nd at 7pm, the Quartet and I will perform Best of Broadway- an evening of Broadway classics.

Please plan on attending and bring friends and neighbors. These concerts are always so much fun.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00 am on Wednesdays on Zoom. We are studying 1 Timothy. 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)



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