

CORYDON CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Holy Week 2016



Lent, Holy Week and Easter take place early this year. Palm Sunday occurs March 20 and Easter a week later on March 27. This is the most dramatic time of the church year. It is the center of our

life as Christians. During this period we rehearse and remember the greatest moments in all history, the sacrifice, passion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the first Newsletter of the ecclesial year, which begins with Easter Day. From the earliest years of Christianity, Christians conceived of Easter as the central event of their faith. The week before Easter became Holy Week. Together they raised up the two beliefs of the early Christian community, the belief in the centrality of the cross and in the

resurrection of Jesus. While we tend to focus more on Christmas and other holidays. The early Christians built their faith life around the remembrance and celebration of these two events. This is vital for the Christian, because it is in our worship that we know of the future which God has prepared for us and of the hope we have in Christ.

He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11



On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover Lamb is sacrificed, Jesus sent his disciples into the city to prepare their Passover meal.

The room is ready. The table is set. We have come to commune with you Jesus, to receive from you the living bread and the cup of your eternal blessing. Hosanna to you, Lord!



Holy Week

Luke 23:34

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

From the Pastor's Desk

This letter is devoted to understanding the Christian traditions surrounding Easter. It focuses on the week before Easter, which we call Holy Week. It is the most dramatic time during our church year.

The notion of Holy Week is very ancient. It developed independently of the practice of Lent and is certainly as old. There are differences between the practices in the East and in the West. In the Eastern Orthodox traditions, there are 40 days without Saturdays and Sundays before Holy Week; in the Western traditions of Catholicism and Protestantism, Lent includes Holy Week and Saturdays. The Holy Week's roots are different from that of the Lenten season.

Holy Week began as an observation of the last events in Jesus' life. This observation began in the fourth century, when pilgrimages to Jerusalem began. Drama was used to re-enact the last scenes of Christ on earth. On Palm Sunday they re-enacted Jesus' triumphal and portentous entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday became the occasion to re-live the fellowship of disciples around the Lord's table. It was the time to remember the institution of the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday they recall the crucifixion and its profound meaning for our lives. It became a day of deepest penance and fasting. On the evening of the Great Sabbath, during the time when Christ lay in the grave, the Easter vigils began. In order to recall for everyone the significance of this event for the entirety of human history, Scripture from the whole sweep of salvation history was read. They sang and prayed throughout the night. As the day broke all streamed into their common place of worship. Together they awaited the glory of the resurrection morn.



The Sunrise service, practiced by many, is not related to Holy Week or Easter Vigils. It began when in the year 1732 a group of young men from the Moravian tradition gathered in a cemetery at Herrnhut, Germany. They came to meditate as a congregation upon the power of Christ's resurrection.

No matter what its background, Holy Week serves to connect us with the entire breadth of the Christian tradition's basic belief: that Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected. As the old hymn says, "Christ the Lord is risen today, . . . Loves redeeming work is done . . . Christ has opened paradise! Lives again our glorious King. Where, O death, is now thy sting?"

See you in church.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Paul Matheny

Lives Again our Glorious King,

Where, O Death, is Now Thy Sting?

Upcoming Events

Worship at Cedar Court

Rev. Dr. Paul D. Matheny will lead the worship at Cedar Court Retirement Home on Easter Sunday (2pm). The Corydon Christian Church family is well-represented in this community. It is good when even those who cannot "get out" can continue to worship with us via extension of our mission.

Easter Egg Hunt

This year the Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the Saturday afternoon before Easter, March 26, at Salem United Church of Christ, New Middletown. Members and friends of Corydon Christian Church and Salem UCC are invited to join us for this event. Everyone enjoys an Easter Egg Hunt. Come and have fun. Contact the Office of Corydon Christian Church for info.

Easter Tree

We look forward this year to continuing the practice of our Easter Tree. Each year we invite those attending our worship on Easter Sunday to bring a flower, which will be bound to a tree and placed in our sanctuary during worship. All are invited to take part in this tradition.

Joyful Noise

This coming Tuesday, March 22 at 2pm, the *Joyful Noise* choir will sing for the residents of the Harrison Health and Rehabilitation Center. This has become a monthly event that is deeply appreciated. Come join us and brighten up their and your day. See you Tuesday.

Joint Choir

This year a joint choir has been organized by Beth Bostock of Corydon Presbyterian Church. It will consist of adults from the downtown Christian, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Practice will be held this Wednesday, March 23, at 8pm at Corydon Presbyterian Church. The service will take place on Good Friday, March 25, also at Corydon Presbyterian Church (at 7pm).

Keep in our Prayers:

Alan Hecht, Norma Matheny, the Jon and Judy Howerton family, the family of Paul Royse, Ruth Curts, Margaret Kirk, and Garland Wheat.

In Loving Memory.

Let us remember those among us who recently died: Ruth Curts, Margaret Kirk, and Garland Wheat.

Phone Chain

The Phone Prayer Chain will be in order soon. Please contact our church office for prayer requests or concerns. Thanks. Paul

Trip to Frazier History Museum

The Frazier History Museum is now exhibiting *Thomas Merton: A Familiar Stranger*. I understand that we had an outing recently to his monastery, the Trappist Gethsemani Abbey. If you are interested in forming a group to attend let me know. The exhibit runs through May 29, 2016. If we go as a group the cost is only \$8 per person.

Spring Youth Assembly: "Connecting the Dots"

The Spring Youth Assembly of the Christian Church in Indiana will take place April 15-17, 111 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219. For more information contact Lee@IndianaDisciples.org. This is a great event. We hope to have someone to represent us this year.

Summer Camp and Conference in Indiana

The application materials for the Summer Camp of the Christian Church in Indiana and that of the United Church of Christ are available in our office. Camps are available for those from Kindergarten to 12th Grade. The schedule for the Christian Church camps is available in the Fellowship Hall. Going to camp is a life-transforming experience. Do not miss out on this opportunity. For more information, please visit: www.indianadisciples.org.

Food for the Soul.

The Food for the Soul dining fellowship will be re-booting soon. Contact Doris Lind or Connie Miller about the fellowship and its next lunch.

Easter Offering

Your gift to the Easter Offering helps bring life, love and learning through the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ministries that receive funding from the Easter Offering include: the Center for Faith and Giving, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, Communication Ministries, Council on Christian Unity, Disciples Church Extension Fund / Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, and Treasury Services.

