

To our dear St. George's Family,

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke 24:36

There is lament that needs to be named in our Easter proclamation this year. It feels like an enormous spiritual cost that, for two years now the, People of God have not been able to physically get together to mark our holiest days of the church year: to journey from the palm celebration in Jerusalem to the empty tomb of Easter morning; by way of the Last Supper, the final hours, and the cross of Good Friday. Our worship is still happening. We are still trying to be faithful and creative in marking this Holy Week in our online services. The reason for our separation from one another is because of our care for one another as this pandemic rages on, but our Easter "Alleluia" sounds hollow if we don't also attend to our lament of this separation.

In the triumphant, Risen Jesus, there is a powerful response to our grief, our worry, and our experiences of loss. Throughout his ministry, Jesus courageously goes to every dark and fragile corner of what it means to be human; what it means to be haunted by demons, to need the tender care of another, to have his heart broken, to experience his own body failing, and to expel his final breath. In so doing, Jesus saves us. He doesn't save us *from* the pain and suffering of our own mortality. He saves us *for* this loving relationship with God. He reveals this God who never stops drawing near to us, wherever we are on the wild pathways of life. It is that joining of God's experience to ours, whatever lost and lonely places we may get ourselves into, that then allows God's life to be bound to ours, and for us to have a share in how God's power — not ours, but God's — raises us from death to new life and invites us to participate in the new creation.

Each and every day in my work at St. George's, I get to see countless little kindnesses and astonishing acts of generosity. I get to see, in you, how God's goodness and love and new life pushes back against darkness and despair. Thank you! With that in mind, this Easter letter comes with the prayers and hope of our whole ministry team as we seek to be part of how we can all experience God's Easter promise to us, even as we continue to be physically apart. Please call and check in with one another. Please reach out to me, or to any of our staff, if you need to talk, pray and connect with your Church Community. Please pray for God's healing power at work in one another, in our church, and in our world so desperately looking for the end to this pandemic.

Yours in Christ

Mutta

Reverend Martha





March 28th—Palm Sunday, Holy Week Begins, 10am Livestream

Holy Week Mid-Week

<u>March 29th</u>—Livestream service at 12pm with Archdeacon Val Kerr <u>March 30th</u>—Livestream service at 12pm with Archdeacon Marion Vincett <u>March 31st</u>—Advent Café at 7pm Livestream

<u>April 1st</u>—Takeout Maundy Thursday Dinner 7pm Livestream Maundy Thursday Service – sign up required

<u>April 2nd</u> - 10am - Good Friday Ecumenical Prayer Service Livestreamed from Silver Spire Church Guest Speaker: The Venerable Val Kerr <u>Noon</u> - St. George's Good Friday Service

April 3rd - Easter Vigil, Livestream 7pm

April 4th - Easter Morning 10am Livestream

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