

APRIL 2020

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS APRIL 21ST

## Easter from within the Catacombs

*Rappin' with the Rev by Pastor Dave Milam*



One of the encouraging stories shared during our Covid-19 pandemic comes from the National Cathedral where boxes full of masks were found in the crypt. If you're around church enough, you can totally understand how this happened. Work has been ongoing at the Cathedral following damage that occurred from the 2011 5.8 magnitude earthquake. Undoubtedly this included sanding and other dust-producing construction projects for which personal protective equipment was needed. In the aftermath, something had to be done with leftover boxes. Storage being what it is in church, a custodian looked to find any possible hiding place to put what must have been seen as almost a throw-away set of items. And voila, for just such a time as this, the PPEs emerged from the catacombs!

The story is rich because there is such an urgent need for such personal protective equipment for our heroic medical staff personnel right now. Let's all make sure to set our alarms for 8:00 pm so that we can get out on our back porches and patios to applaud them, bang a pot, shout our gratitude and support them in whatever way we can. With coronavirus appearing in four members of our congregation that I know of, the urgency of our efforts and the support of our nurses like Katie Cahoon and

Virginia LaBahn is undeniably compelling. But the story is also relevant because it may well seem that the rest of us are feeling confined to catacombs by school closures, work-at-home orders and the like. Yes, it is all right to go out for a walk or to garden and the like, but only if we observe strictures of social distancing and wash our hands!

Church, of course, is among the many places we cannot go. Yes, the live-streamed services are actually going well. Those who find themselves on the introverted side of the Myers-Briggs introvert-extrovert scale are even rejoicing that this innovation at St. Andrew might make attending church from home a wonderful change. That said, the downside of gathering with friends, being a part of the congregation singing, along with hearing the choir, even bumping elbows in greeting one another is missed. And with Easter only a few days away, the prospect of not joining together to celebrate the Lord's resurrection is heart-breaking. But that is where we are and what we will experience this year.

Instead of being overwhelmed with discouragement and sadness, we might well remember the way that similar restrictions were experienced in the early church. The reason that the National Cathedral has cata-

combs in its basement is because the early Christians regularly met in crypts. Yes, Roman persecution was so oppressive, intense and life-threatening that one had to keep one's Christianity secret in order to survive the persecution. These early Christians kept to their houses, gathered in family-sized groups in catacombs and the like because public appearances risked injury and death. Sound familiar?

Given our restrictions, I'm wondering if we could celebrate this Easter remembering these heroes of the faith. The cross to them wasn't a gold-plated piece of jewelry to be worn. They may well have known it as something they had seen, the most cruel, torturous means of death known to humankind. Crucified people died of ribs contracting from the twisted contortions of the body, puncturing the lung so that the victims finally died of suffocation. Their bodies hung post-mortem on public display, swarmed with

flies, covered in blood and excrement. My apologies for the graphic picture. But it is also a picture that the early church had in mind when they risked worshiping and celebrating Easter. The resurrection of Jesus wasn't just a wishful thought of their future in white robes playing harps in a cloudy heaven. It was a faith that by their witness they could change the world.

From our own present catacombs, let's let this Easter call us to a similar witness and hope. Let us love one another, let us pray for the sick, let us extend ourselves with faith and hope to our neighbors near and far as our way of saying that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and claim it as our own call and trust.

Blessings,



Pastor Dave Milam



Join us Sundays on  
**FACEBOOK LIVE**

As we stream Service live at 10:00AM

**Not on Facebook?**

You can watch live by going to our website  
[standrew-pres.org](http://standrew-pres.org)

(Note: Our April Sunday services can be watched at our St. Andrew Presbyterian Church webpage at <https://www.standrew-pres.org/> or at our St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Facebook page. We invite you to let your friends join you in watching the service by sharing it. We invite your "Amens," "likes" and comments. Prayer concerns can be emailed to [pastor@standrew-pres.org](mailto:pastor@standrew-pres.org). We ask you to give generously. Electronic gifts can be made electronically through the "Give Now" button at our St. Andrew Presbyterian Church webpage.)

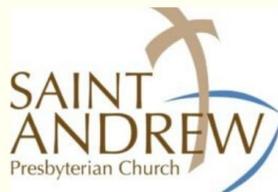


# CHILDREN'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAYS  
6:30PM

VIA ZOOM MEETING

By Phone - Dial: (646)558 8656  
Meeting ID: 690 534 914



# CONFIRMATION CLASS

WEDNESDAYS  
5:30PM

VIA ZOOM MEETING

By Phone - Dial: (646)558 8656  
Meeting ID: 462-528-191



## MISSION COMMITTEE



# Items of the Month Suggestion

## April

Giving what you can at this time would be most generous. The Mission Committee would like to suggest looking around the grocery store to see what is available.

The Monthly suggestion is: April - baby items  
Items can be dropped off at Church and members of the Mission Committee will get food items to LHR.



Not sure what to donate? Each month the Mission Committee will have a suggestion.

Thank you for your continued support with this important Mission!

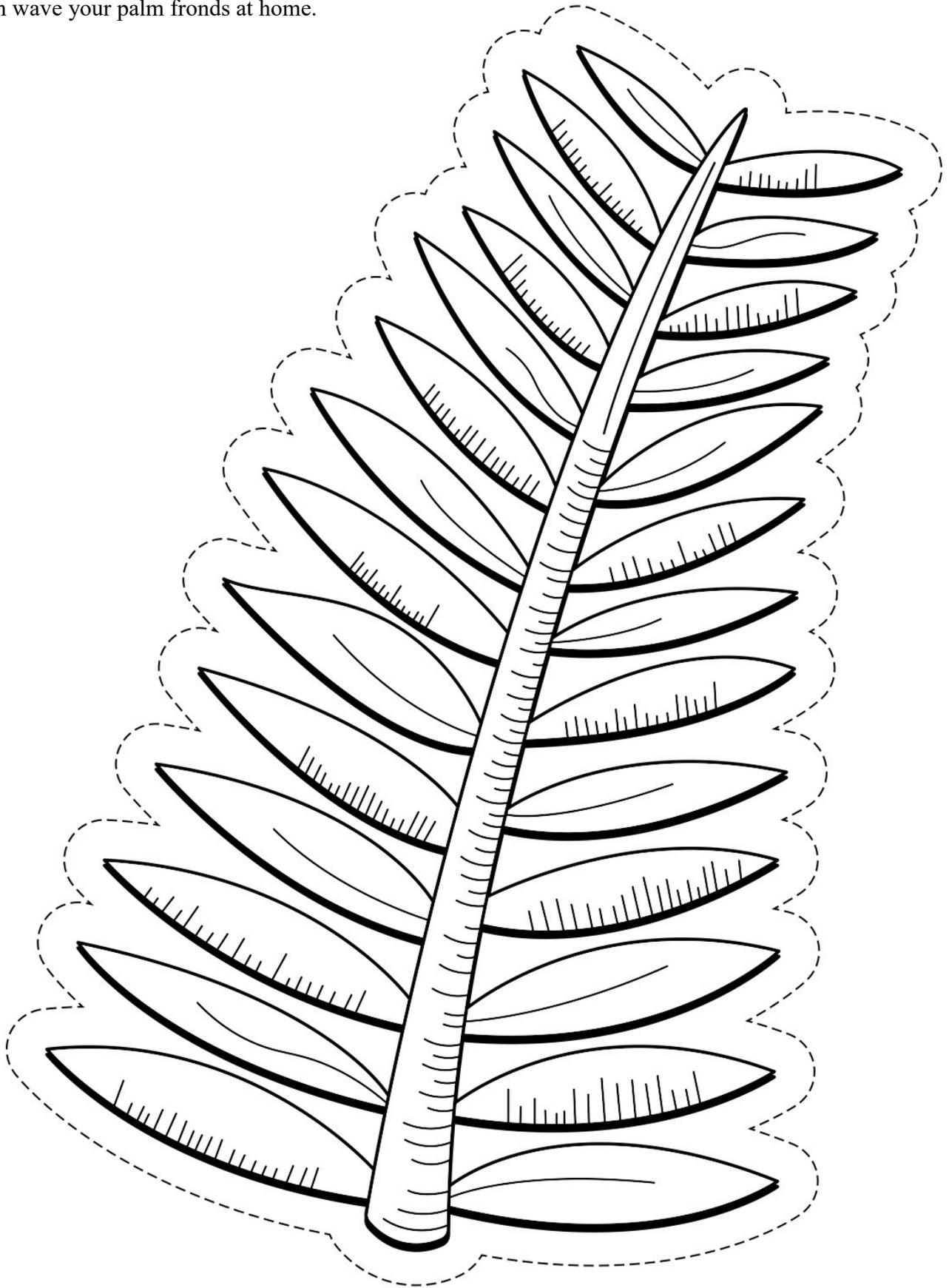
# SERVE WEEK

The Mission Committee is setting up a Serve Week this year instead of just Serve Sunday. The designated week is April 13th through 19th. We are talking to the people at JK Community Farm to allow small groups to come to the farm and help plant vegetables while practicing social distancing.

Please look for more information on Serve Week in the coming days.



For the children on Palm Sunday. Color this palm frond and then during our live-streamed service, you can wave your palm fronds at home.



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## SCRIPTURES AND SERMONS FOR APRIL

(Note: Our April Sunday services can be watched at our St. Andrew Presbyterian Church webpage at <https://www.standrew-pres.org/> or at our St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Facebook page. We invite you to let your friends join you in watching the service by sharing it. We invite your "Amens," "likes" and comments. Prayer concerns can be emailed to [pastor@standrew-pres.org](mailto:pastor@standrew-pres.org). We ask you to give generously. Electronic gifts can be made electronically through the "Give Now" button at our St. Andrew Presbyterian Church webpage.)

### **April 5<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday; At Home Celebration of the Lord's Supper)**

Theme: What Jesus' Crucifixion Means for His Followers

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

Sermon: *"Can I Get a Witness?"*

Worship Leader: Clark Seipt

### **April 12<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday; The Resurrection of our Lord)**

Theme: What Jesus' Resurrection Means for His Followers

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-20

Sermon: *"The Great Commission"*

Worship Leader: Bonnie Milam

### **New Sermon Series: "How to Stay Sane During the Covid-19 Pandemic"**



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The Rev. Dr. David Milam, Pastor

The Rev. JoAnna Rich, Children and Family Ministries Director

Marcia Owens, Clerk of Session

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

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### **April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Theme: The Christian Practice of Making Time for Meditation

Scripture: Psalm 1; John 21:

Sermon: *"Take a 15 Minute Daily Vacation"*

Worship Leader: TBD

### **April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Theme: The Fellowship of Meal Times

Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25; 13:1-2

Sermon: *"Entertaining Angels Unawares"*

Worship Leader: Kevin Burel