

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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Lent 2018

I long have been deeply moved by the wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers who began living in the deserts of Egypt in the third and fourth centuries of the church. The most famous of them was St. Anthony of Egypt (251?-356 AD). His biography, written by St. Athanasius, inspired thousands of young men and woman to flee the cities of the Byzantine world for the solitude of the desert. These spiritual warriors, as they saw themselves, had left everything for the sake of Jesus Christ. Now they had arrived in the desert to resist the world, the flesh, and the devil. Many were unprepared for this task and as a result sought out the advice of spiritual elders. This advice was soon collected and widely distributed in the ancient Christian world.

The teachings of the elders were not systematic but rather were a collection of answers to questions from those who came to them for spiritual advice and counsel. A good many of the requests directed to these men began with these simple words, "Speak to me a word that I may live." The answers the seekers received most often were not what they expected. Often they sent the seeker away to re-engage with the very question he or she had hoped the elder would solve.

One elder apparently was asked why it was so difficult to grow in the life of service and prayer to God. He answered: "The reason we do not get anywhere is that we do not know our limits, and we are not patient carrying on the work we have begun. But without any labor at all we want to gain possession of virtue." The last sentence is telling. The young seeker thought that his radical renunciation of the world should be enough to catapult him to virtue. The only way, however, that we gain virtue is by repeated effort.

Virtue in the ancient world was understood to be something gained by practice. We learn to love as we love, to be a giving person as we give, to be forgiving as we forgive and so forth. None of these virtues can be purchased off the shelf or given to us by God or anyone else. To learn to do these things we have to do them. And we most likely will not learn how to do them unless we fail over and over again. "The reason we do not get anywhere is that we do not know our limits, and we are not patient carrying on the work we have begun. But without any labor at all we want to gain possession of virtue."

This booklet provides many resources to help you in your growth in virtue and grace during this Lenten season. It takes discipline and effort to grow and mature. Lent is the season the church sets aside for particular devotion and dedication, not to burden us with one more thing to do, but as a time in which we can learn more about ourselves and our limits. May you have a blessed and holy Lent.

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. Dr. Craig A. Phillips,
 Rector

This booklet provides many resources to assist you in your daily Lenten devotions and readings. May you be drawn closer to our Savior Jesus Christ in this Lenten season.

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LENTEN CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

14 ASH WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM – Family Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Imposition of Ashes

7:30 PM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Imposition of Ashes

15 THURSDAY

7:00 AM – Men’s Breakfast

10:30 AM – Thursday Ears

17 SATURDAY

12:30 PM – *Narnia* Rehearsals

18 SUNDAY – LENT I

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, Family Service (Godly Play)

10:00 AM – Adult Forum, Rector’s Lenten Bible Study, Sunday School

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II

12:30 PM – *Narnia* Rehearsals

20 TUESDAY

6:30 PM – Vestry Meeting

21 WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM – Youth and Children’s Choir Practice

6:30 PM – Handbell Choir Practice

6:30 PM – Lenten Program: Practices to Enrichen Our Spirituality

7:00 PM – Godzilla

7:30 PM – Men’s Choir Practice

22 THURSDAY

10:30 AM – Thursday Ears

24 SATURDAY

12:30 PM – *Narnia* Rehearsals

25 SUNDAY – LENT II

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, Family Service (Godly Play)

10:00 AM – Adult Forum, Rector’s Lenten Bible Study, Sunday School

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II

12:30 PM – *Narnia* Rehearsals

26 MONDAY

7:30 PM – Prayer Group

28 WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM – Youth & Children’s Choir Practice

6:30 PM – Lenten Program: Practices to Enrichen Our Spirituality

7:30 PM – Adult Choir Practice

A LENTEN FAMILY PROJECT:
“PRETZELS”

Pretzels? A Lenten project? Yes! Pretzels originated as a Lenten bread in the Middle Ages. Today, pretzels have become so much a part of everyday life, sold year round in grocery stores, snack counters and by street vendors, that their Lenten significance has been lost. Fasting, giving up meals altogether, or eating simplified meals has been a part of the Lenten tradition of self-discipline since the early New Testament Church. Thus, meal times became a focal point for Lenten prayer. In the Middle Ages, the monks at various monasteries in Europe conceived the idea of folding their bread sticks into the shape of arms folded in prayer. As they ate these “praying arm” bread sticks, they could continually focus on the meaning of Lent for their personal devotion.

Making pretzels is relatively easy and can be a fun project for the family. While you are making them, you can talk about where the practice started, why it was done, and why Lent is a time of prayer, devotion, and self-examination.

INGREDIENTS:

1½ cups warm water	4-5 cups flour
1 pkg. dry yeast	2 egg whites
1 teaspoon salt	Coarse salt
1 tablespoon sugar	

METH-

OD:

Dissolve the yeast in the warm water. Add sugar and salt; gradually stir in flour until the dough is stiff. Knead dough until smooth (about 10 minutes).

Divide dough into small pieces. Roll into ropes and twist into pretzel shape.

Brush with lightly beaten egg whites; sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 425 degrees F. for 12-15 minutes. (If you want hard pretzels reduce water to 1¼ cups and add ¼ cup melted margarine or butter.) These pretzels should be enjoyed right away!

The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus by Peter Gomes (2007). The late Peter Gomes was an entertaining preacher and writer. In one of his last books he redirects the reader's attention from Jesus himself to the content of Jesus' message, reminding us that what Jesus actually had to say about society was and is in many ways 'scandalous' and uncomfortable.

Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott (2012). This popular contemporary writer distills all prayer into three categories: Help, or prayers when we need something, Thanks or prayers of gratitude, and Wow, prayers of praise and wonder at God's creation. The book is written with humor and honesty, making it accessible and fun while being enriching and thought provoking.

LENTEN READING FOR CHILDREN

Lent is a good time to put into practice some family reading time. Books are a good way to begin a process of self-reflection by helping us to get inside the story, live it, ask questions about it, and let it challenge and shape our thoughts and ideas.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. One of the most beloved children's books of all time and a 1963 Newbery Medal winner. (Age 9 and older). A Disney movie based on this book will be released in theaters on March 9, 2018.

The Quiltmaker's Gift by Jeff Brumbeau. A magical tale about a greedy king and a generous quilt maker who gives the quilts she makes only to the poor.

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney (ages 4-8). The story of how one woman brings beauty to her town after travelling all over the world and inspires a young girl. A sweet picture book to read aloud.

The Clown of God and Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland by Tomie Depaola. Depaola writes beautifully illustrated books for elementary school aged children. The Clown of God is a moving story about a travelling juggler who takes refuge in a monastery at the end of his life. DePaola's book on St Patrick provides a good introduction to the Irish saint just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Miss Hunnicutt's Hat by Jeff Brumbeau. When the residents of Littleton hear that the Queen is coming to town they immediately begin to beautify the town. They are scandalized when Miss Hunnicutt appears wearing a new hat from Paris with a chicken on it. "It has to go!" the people all say. But Miss Hunnicutt stands up for her right to wear what she likes. (Kindergarten to 3rd Grade).

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. (Newbery Honor Book, 2001). The story of a year-old girl named Opal who lives in Naomi, Florida with her preacher father and a big brown stray dog she meets one day on an errand to the local grocery store.

The Grannyman by Judith Byron Schachner. Simon is an old cat who becomes quite discouraged in his old age. His family comes up with solution to cure Simon's blues: a new kitten! His new and unexpected companion lifts Simon's spirits and earns him a new nickname.

If you Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff. A wonderful book to read aloud to young children (ages 4-8).

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. A classic children's book that is also well-loved by adults.

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams. A nursery tale that tells of how, because of the love of a boy, a stuffed rabbit became real.

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame. A classic tale for all ages of the joys and trials of friendship.

MARCH

1 THURSDAY

6:00 AM – SOME

10:30 AM – Thursday Ears

4 SUNDAY – LENT III

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, Family Service

10:00 AM – Adult Forum, Rector's Lenten Bible Study, Sunday School

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II

12:30 PM – *Narnia* Rehearsals

8 THURSDAY

6:00 PM - *Narnia* Final Dress Rehearsal

9 Friday

11:00 AM - Meals on Wheels

7:00 PM - St. Peter's Youth Presents: *Narnia*

10 SATURDAY

7:00 PM - St. Peter's Youth Presents: *Narnia*

11 SUNDAY – LENT IV

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, Family Service (Godly Play)

10:00 AM – Adult Forum, Rector's Lenten Bible Study, NO Sunday School

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II

2:00 PM – St. Peter's Youth Presents: *Narnia*

12 MONDAY

7:30 PM – Prayer Group

7:30 PM – Finance Committee Meeting

13 TUESDAY

7:30 PM – Second Tuesday Meetings

14 WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM – Handbell Choir Practice

6:30 PM – Lenten Program: Practices to Enrichen Our Spirituality

7:30 PM – Adult Choir Practice

15 THURSDAY

7:00 AM – Men's Breakfast

10:30 AM – Thursday Ears

17 SATURDAY

8:00 AM – Region III Lenten Event: Rise Against Hunger

18 SUNDAY – LENT V

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, Family Service

10:00 AM – Adult Forum, Rector's Lenten Bible Study, Sunday School

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II

20 TUESDAY

6:30 PM – Vestry Meeting

21 WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM – Youth & Children's Choir Practice

6:30 PM – Handbell Choir Practice

7:00 PM – Tenebrae Service

22 THURSDAY

10:30 AM – Thursday Ears

25 SUNDAY – PALM SUNDAY

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, Family Service (Godly Play)

10:00 AM – Adult Forum, Rector's Bible Study, Sunday School

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II

- 26 **MONDAY**
7:30 PM – Prayer Group
- 28 **WEDNESDAY**
7:30 PM – Adult Choir Practice
- 29 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
6:00 PM – Seder
- 30 **GOOD FRIDAY**
12:00 PM – Good Friday Liturgy
7:30 PM – Good Friday Liturgy
- 31 **HOLY SATURDAY**
7:45 PM – Easter Vigil

APRIL

- 1 **SUNDAY– EASTER SUNDAY**
8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, Family Service (No Godly Play)
10:00 AM – Easter Egg Hunt (3rd Grade and Younger)
11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 2 **MONDAY** *Office Closed*
- 3 **TUESDAY** *Office Closed*

SUGGESTED LENTEN READING

Many people like to read a book or two during Lent to deepen their understanding of how God works in their lives. Here is a list of different sorts of books each of which will challenge and enrich the sensitive reader:

Living Well Through Lent: 2018: Loving with all your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind. A Living Compass Seasonal Resource. The pamphlet, written by a number of contributors, approaches the entire Christian life from the perspective of love. Readers are asked to examine how they will walk in light of God’s love. Through daily meditations and a suggested practice for each week of Lent, this Living Compass resource will assist its readers in examining the spiritual practices and disciplines that will allow them to “cultivate more room” in themselves “for the love of God to dwell richly.”

The Hymnal 1982. Many of the hymns in the hymnal of the Episcopal Church provide excellent material for prayer and meditation. Some are ancient; others are not. Why not meditate on a different unfamiliar hymn text each day during Lent?

A Way Other than our Own: Devotions in Lent by Walter Bruggemann (2017). Daily Lenten meditations by the perhaps the preeminent Old Testament scholar of our time. Reflecting on Isaiah 55:6-7, “Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon,” Brueggemann focuses the reader’s attention on four key “Lenten verbs,” *seek, call, forsake, and return.*

R. S. Thomas. Everyman’s Poetry. The Welsh poet-priest R.S. Thomas (1913–2000) struggled with some of the same matters of faith that faced poets such as Mathew Arnold and Wallace Stevens, but unlike them he remained firmly rooted in the Christian tradition that his predecessors had abandoned. Thomas was born in Cardiff. He studied classics, then theology and, after ordination as an Anglican priest, served six rural Welsh parishes for most of his life. His first book of poems was published in 1946. He won the Queen’s Gold Medal for Poetry in 1964.

Beginning to Pray by Anthony Bloom (1970). A spiritual classic. The author was the son of a Russian diplomat, a physician, a monk, and an archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain. He died in 2003 at the age of 89. “The realm of God is dangerous,” Bloom wrote. “You must enter into it and not just seek information about it. . . .The day when God is absent, when he is silent—that is the beginning of prayer.”

The Following three books were written by Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002-2012.

Where God Happens: Discovering Christ in One Another (2007). In this book, Williams maintains that the place where "God happens" is to be found in our one-on-one encounters with each other. The book offers a fresh reading of the 4th century Christians who retreated to the deserts of Egypt, Syria, and Palestine and shows how their lives can serve as role models for us today, particularly within the Anglican Communion.

Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life (2016). “Discipleship,” says Williams in this companion to his best-selling book, *Being Christian*, is a “state of being”: “Discipleship is about how we live; not just the decisions we make, not just the things we believe, but a state of being.” In his typically gentle, inviting, pastoral writing style, Williams offers biblically grounded wisdom for Christians in all stages of their journeys as disciples of Jesus.

The Sign and the Sacrifice: The Meaning of the Cross and Redemption (2017). Williams presents the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection as viewed through the eyes of those who witnessed them. This book explores the meaning and significance of Jesus’ cross and resurrection for both his earliest followers and us today.

Crazy Episcopalians: A Call to Follow Jesus by Michael B. Curry (2013). “What the Church needs, what this world needs, are some Christians who are as crazy as the Lord,” writes Michael Curry, the current Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. “Crazy enough to love like Jesus, to give like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus, to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God—like Jesus.”

Walking Across Egypt by Clyde Edgerton (1987). The story of a spunky woman, a stray dog, a teenage delinquent, and the best home cooking in Lister, North Carolina. The novel is a remarkable example of what it means to tend to the needs of “the least of these” (Matthew 25).

Wednesday Night Lenten Program at St. Peter’s

This year our Wednesday night Lenten program will focus on practices that we can use to enrich our own spirituality. Spirituality is about how we live in relationship to God, to the world around us, to one another, and to ourselves. In other words, spirituality is about staying engaged in all of these relationships.

This year we will only have three Wednesday sessions. The schedule for the Wednesday evening Lenten program is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 21 | “Our Relationship to God” |
| February 28 | “Our Relationship to the World Around Us” |
| March 7 | No Meeting (This is the week of the “Narnia” Production) |
| March 14 | “Our Relationship to Ourselves and to One Another” |

Each week we will learn about and discuss specific practices that we can use to deepen our relationships in these four areas.

We will meet in the parish hall, beginning at 6:30PM with a simple dinner of bread and soup. The program will begin at 7:00 and end at 8:00 at which time we will join the choir in the nave of the church for an abridged version of Evensong.

On March 21, everyone is welcome to a youth-led service of Tenebrae in the church beginning at 7:00PM.

We look forward to seeing you at St. Peter’s this Lenten season!

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SUNDAY	John 8:46-59	THURSDAY	Mark 10:17-31
MONDAY	Mark 9:30-41	FRIDAY	Mark 10:32-45
TUESDAY	Mark 9:42-50	SATURDAY	Mark 10:46-52
WEDNESDAY	Mark 10:1-16		

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PALM SUNDAY	Luke 19:41-48***	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Mark 14:12-25
MONDAY	Mark 11:12-25	GOOD FRIDAY	John 13: 36-38 ** John 19: 38-42 ***
TUESDAY	Mark 11:27-33	HOLY SATURDAY	Romans 8: 1-11 ***
WEDNESDAY	Mark 12:1-11	EASTER DAY	John 1: 1-18 ** Luke 24:13-35 or John 20: 19-23 ***

** Intended for use in the morning. *** Intended for use in the evening.

THE WOUNDED LAMB OF GOD represents Jesus crucified. The lamb holds a cross. The blood, which flows into a chalice, signifies the body and blood of Christ (communion). The three-rayed nimbus (halo) signifies a member of the Trinity. This is a symbolic rendering of "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

**EXHORTATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT**

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and It became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need that all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

TWO WOODCUTS BY ALBRECHT DÜRER
from c. 1500

The parable of the sower



The feeding of the five thousand



A SIMPLE FAMILY LENTEN SERVICE FOR DAILY USE

LEADER: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 ALL: Thanks be to God.
 LEADER: Rend your heart, and not your garments and turn unto the Lord your God.
 ALL: For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.
 LEADER: *(Reads the Bible passage suggested for the day — see list below.)*
 ALL: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
 LEADER: Let us pray. *(The Collect for the week is read by the Leader, or said in unison by all. Additional prayers may be said for the Church, the family, those in sickness or trouble, etc.)*
 ALL: **The Lord's Prayer.**
 LEADER: The almighty and merciful Lord — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — bless us and keep us. Amen.

COLLECTS AND SUGGESTED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY	Luke 18:9-14	FRIDAY	John: 17:9-19
THURSDAY	John 17:1-8	SATURDAY	John: 17:20-26

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SUNDAY	John 12:44-50	THURSDAY	Mark 2:1-12
MONDAY	Mark 1:1-13	FRIDAY	Mark 2:13-22
TUESDAY	Mark 1:14-28	SATURDAY	Mark 2:23—3:6
WEDNESDAY	Mark 1:29-45		

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY	John 5:19-24	THURSDAY	Mark 4:21-34
MONDAY	Mark 3:7-19a	FRIDAY	Mark 4:35-41
TUESDAY	Mark 3:19b-35	SATURDAY	Mark 5:1-20
WEDNESDAY	Mark 4:1-20		

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY	John 5:25-29	THURSDAY	Mark 6:30-46
MONDAY	Mark 5:21-43	FRIDAY	Mark 6:47-56
TUESDAY	Mark 6:1-13	SATURDAY	Mark 7:1-23
WEDNESDAY	Mark 6:13-29		

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SUNDAY	John 6:27-40	THURSDAY	Mark 8:27—9:1
MONDAY	Mark 7:24-37	FRIDAY	Mark 9:2-13
TUESDAY	Mark 8:1-10	SATURDAY	Mark 9:14-29
WEDNESDAY	Mark 8:11-26		

