

# The Piper

## May 2020



Photo credit: Rochelle Kelly-St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ben Lomond  
Easter 2020

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# Rev. Rob's Corner

Fellow Parishioners:

Well, it has been roughly eight weeks since the last Piper offering, and it sure seems the world has changed hasn't it. Actually it didn't really change just our way of walking through it has changed and it appears we are on a path few of us imagined we'd be on.

In a God centered world how can these things happen? If God's Kingdom has come what is up with this disease? What is up with the panic and the turmoil? When will things return to the way they are supposed to be? You might not be asking yourselves these questions or you might be asking some of them or ones like them. The questions can lead us to deeper understandings of our relationships with each other and the Divine many of us see behind and throughout this life we live.

Once more, as has been the case many times in the past we realize we are not in control. I for one don't see or believe there is a puppet master entity guiding us. Life unfolds and we can react to it with hope or despair. We can act with compassion and love or fear in all its many forms. This is a time of trial and look at how many have responded to it. The countless workers in our hospitals and emergency responders keep helping. The efforts to lessen the illness and death are bringing the budding of hope. This is a rising to our better selves. People thinking not of themselves first but the well being of others. For those of us who aren't in the trenches our sheltering in place can be a mitzvah if approached with attitude of helping our communities.

We also have our scriptures to give us stories of other times a people have faced great upheavals. Moses taking a whole community from the life they knew into the unknown of the wilderness. People in that story saw a God strong to save yet time and

again called out to return to the ways they had left behind. The Hebrew people who followed Moses never did return to the society they left. Their lives changed and during their exodus manna from heaven was their daily bread. We aren't the early Iron Age Hebrews. Our understandings are not their understandings yet we too long for and are comforted by the same divinity as they. Miracles still occur and life will go on.

We may need to come up with new ways of being a community of faith. I can't see how that plays out and hope it's not a Zoom only community because I miss you all. You are though more important, each of you, than our current understanding of community. We have the parable of the Good Shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one. That seems on the profit based face of it crazy. In today's parlance the good of the ninety-nine far outweigh the good of the one. God though is concerned that we take care of the lost. That we protect the one. That we don't apply the ways of our temporary cultural norms to the well being of each other.

If I could give you all answers I might not because you need to come to faith and understanding yourselves to make it real for you. I can relate to you what I preach each week. There is a purpose to life. I have found this to be true. That purpose is to love each other. This is the essence of the nature of Christ. All of life's existence the good and the bad gives us the opportunity to exhibit that behavior. To act in and through Love. I pray because I love. I worship out of and through Love. I help by the power and grace of love when I'm able. I accept your help, follow Christ Jesus because of Love. By Love and through Love and with Love we will share the breaking of bread again one day. Christ became flesh through Love. Accepted death, even death on a cross through Love and rose again indeed because of Love. Take the witness of all the saints and learn from it and let it lift you during this trial. It will be while longer, a month or more. Let Love sustain you and give you the patience and endurance to see this trial through.

I will see you online. The Virtual Bishop visits this week. Morning Prayer at 10:00, virtual coffee hour at 11:00. Look for the Zoom links. Don't forget the weekly Bible study on Thursday mornings and the virtual coffee hour Sundays at 11:00 until this process ends.

May the Blessing of Almighty God keep you and hold you. Stay safe and well.

I remain:

Yours in Christ;

Rob+

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**Bishop Lucinda Ashby**

Zooming in to St. Andrew's  
Sunday, May 3rd at 10:00 am

This will be a virtual visit via *Zoom*. If you have not participated in a Zoom meeting before and want some instruction before the meeting please click on this tutorial [link](#). See you Sunday!



**To: Sharon Fishel**



A huge thank you for shepherding all those hundreds of tomato plants day in and day out over the past couple months. AND then...selling all those hundreds of tomato plants day in and day out over the past few weeks. This year's plant sale was a HUGE SUCCESS for St. Andrew's in spite of our current shelter in place orders. Thank you, Sharon for all your hard work.

## Thoughts

By Steve LaFever

### Luke 14:12-14

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Permit me to spout some *heresy*. Each Christian church has rules and regulations, canons and constitutions, rubrics and rules of instruction. However, I do believe that when any of these are in conflict with the exercise of hospitality as stated in Luke, then there is something very wrong with the Christian Church. When the Church puts itself at odds with practicing the Gospel we have to question how a church can define itself as Christian.

I have been telling people that it will be nice to be able to stop living in fear of each other. We go out for groceries or prescriptions and find ourselves fearful that someone might cough or get close enough to touch us. We wear masks, bandanas, or some other unique face covering in the hope we may be spared this pandemic. However, when this is all over and we resume a "normal" life, many will still live in fear of others. However, this fear will not be *virus* based but it will be rooted in the fear of others who are not like us, who are different, who are the disenfranchised members of society. The tragedy is that our Gospel calls us, compels us, and instructs us to accept and understand those very people.

Christ has died, Christ has risen! Alleluia, Alleluia! Easter is so important as it calls us to follow the way of the cross. It prods us to make that journey with Him from Gethsemane to Calvary. It is about showing love for all people . . . regardless of who they are. Bishop Curry tells us over and over, "If it's not about Love, it's not about Jesus."

The Sunday after Easter is called Doubting Thomas Sunday. It is when Thomas is in disbelief that Jesus lives. He asks to see

and feel the wounds. When this happens and he realizes that Jesus is still with us. He says, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus responds with one of the most powerful and prophetic statements about faith in all of Scripture: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" I believe the reason we say Alleluia from Easter onward is because we have not seen but we believe. In that believing we pledge ourselves to move forward and find the strength to stop living in fear of each other and start believing in the Love that represents our faith.

While this Easter found St. Andrew's empty, many flocked to social media to view one service or another. In the morning, I stopped by the church and sat by myself in a pew and prayed for our little church and its missing people. In the afternoon, I had been invited to watch a church service in New York by someone who was a very important part of my life, who helped me understand Christianity. She is now an Episcopal priest and is so deserving of that title. Her sermon, what it represented, how sincere it was given, and the love behind it confirmed for me that the Spirit of God is alive and well in the church. It was a service that reaffirmed my faith, and I felt like Thomas believing and knowing that the best is yet to come once we abandon our fear of each other and embrace each other's differences! I have been blessed this Easter. LV43 "Because He lives I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone, because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives!" God bless us all.

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### **WHO NEEDS A CHURCH!**

Submitted by Sharon Fishel

This Easter was different. When I woke up Easter morning I knew that. There would be no family barbecue, no dying of Easter eggs, no basket of candy for Jerry, but I had made our Easter bread and bought a leg of lamb and we were going to watch the diocese Easter service on our computer. My morning routine is to pour my coffee, check my emails and Facebook, so I curled up on the couch to do so.

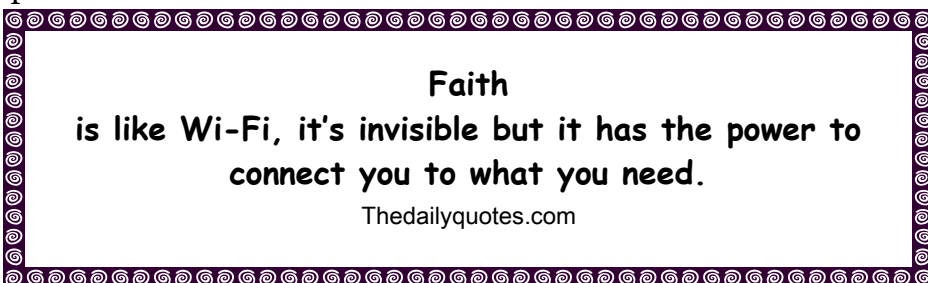


My nephew in New York City is a hip-hop producer. He had written in Facebook a diatribe which are usually pretty funny and reserved for our government. This time it was against Christians who were complaining that they couldn't go to church on Easter Sunday. He said we are all a bunch of hypocrites, that the commandments say we shouldn't be worshipping craven images which is what our church buildings are. He went on to say that we can worship God anywhere, we don't need a church and if we think we do we are worshipping idols not God!

I patiently, thoughtfully responded by saying that I go to church to be with other people, to share my love of God with others. I go to learn and to expand my understanding about how I can live my life to glorify God and to improve the world I live in. I go to church to help others, and to give thanks and praise for all the good things in my life. I also explained that the commandments say we should have no other God's but God and that doesn't mean just idols, but money, drugs, ego etc. There were a few likes from others and a few thumbs down, but he rebutted "The church building is just a money pit! You don't need it to worship God and if you do, you're being a hypocrite"

I felt slapped in the face, really hurt! It was Easter morning! I responded "I don't appreciate waking up on Easter morning to be criticized and called a hypocrite"

He called me; explained again how buildings are just craven images and not necessary for worship. I said, "Christopher you can sing in the shower, you can walk down Fifth Avenue to a new beat you created, but doesn't it make a difference when you can get together at a concert with a group of folks who love hip hop? Doesn't it expand your love of it all?" He paused and said, "Yeah, I really miss that, I'm sorry Auntie, I'll take down the post!"







**Angel in the Kitchen**  
*Feel'n good when cook'n*  
*Sharing the love of God through your*



### **Pasta e Fagioli - By Cook's Country**

*Why this recipe works:* From type of bean to shape of pasta – and even whether or not it contains meat – the interactions of this Italian American pasta – and – bean soup are endless. Our version from a restaurant in northern New Jersey, which was deeply but gently savory, thick and hearty, and studded with creamy beans and soft little pieces of pasta, was the inspiration for our version. Starting with a base of pancetta, finely chopped vegetables, plenty of garlic, and a small but powerful punch of tomato paste, we built a rich and flavorful broth as a backdrop for our soup. To thicken it, we pureed half the cannellini beans that we were adding to the soup. For ease, rather than boiling the pasta in a separate pot, we added little ditalini right into the simmering soup to cook in the last moments before serving. Some grated Parmesan cheese for extra richness and seasoning and a big handful of fresh basil for a blast of fragrant freshness was all that was needed to finish the dish.

**Before you begin:** You can use any small pasta shape, such as tubettini, elbow macaroni, or small shells, in place of the ditalini. To make this soup vegetarian, omit the pancetta and substitute vegetable broth for the chicken broth. If you do not have a food processor, you can use a blender to process the beans and water in step 1.

<b>Ingredients:</b>	$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt
2 (15oz) cans cannellini beans,	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. pepper
Rinsed	2 T tomato paste
1 cup water	4 garlic cloves, minced
2 T olive oil, plus extra for	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. red pepper flakes (opt)
drizzling	4 cups chicken broth
2 onions, chopped fine	4 oz. (1 cup) ditalini
2 carrots, peeled and chopped fine	2 oz. Parmesan cheese, grated (1
1 celery rib, chopped fine	cup) plus extra for serving
2 oz. pancetta, chopped fine	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped fresh basil



### Instructions

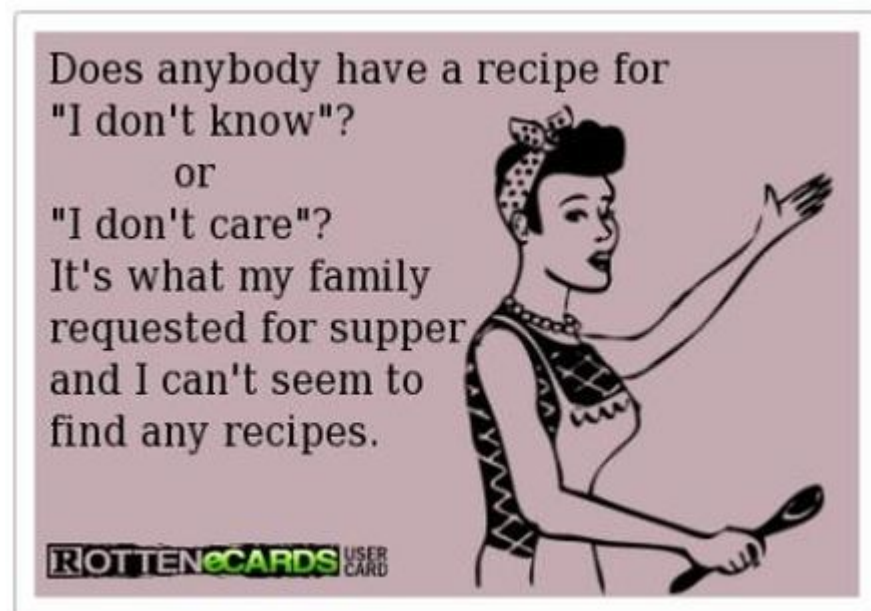
Process 1 can of beans and water in food processor until smooth, about 30 seconds. Set aside.

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat until shimmering. Add onions, carrots, celery, pancetta, salt, and pepper and cook until vegetables are softened, about 10 minutes.

Add tomato paste, garlic, and pepper flakes, if using, and cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Stir in broth, remaining can of beans, and pureed bean mixture. Bring to boil, reduce heat to medium – low, and simmer, stirring occasionally, until flavors have melded, about 10 minutes.

4. Increase heat to medium and bring to boil. Add pasta and cook, stirring occasionally, until pasta is al dente, about 12 minutes. Off heat, stir in Parmesan and basil. Serve, drizzled with extra oil and passing extra Parmesan separately.

5. TO MAKE AHEAD: At end of step 3, let soup cool completely. Refrigerate soup for up to 2 days or freeze for up to 1 month. Let frozen soup thaw completely in refrigerator before reheating. To serve, bring soup to boil and continue with step four.



## **APPLAUSE**

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the tomato project. There were so many of you it is hard to begin. Thank you to Randi Alves for teaching us how to plant and care for tomato seedlings. Thank you to the crews that planted, bought supplies, transplanted, watered and babysat our tomatoes; Kim Rooks, Sheryl Mello, Jennifer Kennedy, Rochelle Kelly, Teresa Ruff, Paul Balch, Steve LaFever, Jerry Fishel. Jaime Butler and Cindy Virgina, Judyth Suttle and Ellen and Christopher. Thanks for the community members who promoted our sale including Valley Churches United Missions, former preschool families and many church members. This project was a fundraiser for the garden fund. We did so well, and sold so many tomatoes that when the pandemic hit Judyth Suttle generously told us to repay the garden fund for its costs and to make sure the fund had enough to keep the gardens going for the year ,but to put the rest towards our bills. As we haven't been able to meet together in person we have received less income and have been praying for a way to pay salaries and basic bills. We sold by the end of April **\$970.00** in tomatoes and there is more money in the safe to be deposited on May 4. I believe that this project was a blessing and that it has kept us afloat. Many community members gave just a bit more, saying they wanted to keep the church alive and also thanked us for giving them something positive to do in their gardens while being sheltered in place. Again, Thank you Everybody .  
Sharon Fishel



“Apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, the fresh-water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?”

*Monty Python's Life of Brian*

# Happy Birthday

April
May

2	Ed	Butler
5	Luke	Banke
5	Henry	Vallderuten
6	Sharon	Fishel
11	Donna	Brough
13	Davidson	Tetiana
14	Barbara	Banke
16	Pauline	Syres
18	Sheryl	Mello
19	Iain	Holtzclaw
22	Susan	ValldeRuten
24	Kaelyn	Caprino
26	Hyacinth	Bevan
27	Joan	McVay

2	Cindy	Garay
2	Sandi	Lewandowski
3	Cathy	Newfield
7	Preston	Boomer
8	Janet	Parske
8	Tricia	Leslie
10	Jaden	Ruff
11	Donald	Kerns
12	Barry	Holtzclaw
18	Katie	Garay
21	Tim	Caldell
22	Mike	Banke
22	Michael	Freeman
28	Logan	Hudson



## 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian

### Reason 89

I don't know why anyone would become a member of a crazy church like ours, but I am a Christian of a peculiarly sacramental sort because of something that happened when I was thirteen. My parents sent me off to Christ School near Asheville, North Carolina, and on the first Sunday the boys were lined up and marched into the chapel, which was quickly filling with smoke (under the direction of a senior named Terry Holmes). Some of the new boys passed out and had to be dragged out onto the lawn to recover, but I stayed, survived, and loved it.

Ormonde Plater  
Dioceses of Louisiana



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*Where God is worshiped and the people are fed*