

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 14, 2021

8:00AM

Worship in a Season of Pandemic

Guidelines and Directives *February 2021*

- + Attendance at any indoor service is limited to 25 individuals total (including the celebrant and any other staff), as directed by the Bishop of Western North Carolina's directives (January 28, 2021).
- + Prior to arrival, all attending should perform a self-check of symptoms and temperature. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, who might have been in contact with someone who has the virus, or who is experiencing a temperature higher than 100.0 (F), should not attend. Additionally, individuals who are at high-risk, or share their home with someone at high-risk, should consider carefully whether or not to attend any public service at this time.
- + Enter through the Chestnut Street door; masks, hand sanitizer, and additional instructions for seating will be provided in the Foyer. Exit through the Main Street door. Only the Church will be accessible.
- + All in attendance must wear a facial mask, that covers both mouth and nose completely, at all times. Children under the age of two are exempted from this requirement (per CDC guidelines). Please bring your own mask; if you do not have a mask, one will be provided.
- + A minimum of six feet of physical distance must be maintained at all times by individuals who do not share the same household. Pews are marked to ensure appropriate distancing is maintained between households.
- + Bulletins will be placed in the Foyer prior to the service and should be deposited in the recycling bin upon leaving the service or taken home.
- + If singing takes place in the service, all singers must be masked, at least 10 feet from one another and a distance of at least 25 feet from the congregation will be maintained at all times. Windows will be opened for additional ventilation.
- + The Peace may be exchanged only through gestures that do not require movement or touching those outside one's own household. Waving or bowing to one another are most appropriate.
- + The celebrant will administer communion in the aisle using pincers (tongs) to prevent close contact. An acolyte or usher will direct movement of each pew. Please receive the consecrated host in the hand and return to your pew before removing masks to consume the bread.
- + Each pew should exit the Church one at a time at the conclusion of the liturgy, allowing those closest should exit first. For the safety of the whole community, please do not linger in the Church following the service.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

8:00 AM

*A prayerful silence precedes the service.
The bells ring the hour.*

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures forever.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel:
The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this:
Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 79

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Officiant pronounces the absolution and the people respond, Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

THE FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 **Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- 17 **Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.**
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.**
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 **Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.**
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3: 14-21

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

from *Common Worship*

The Leader and People pray responsively.

In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people, that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace, we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth, we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away, we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick in body, mind and spirit, that they may know your power to heal, we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see you face to face, we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died, that they may share with you in your eternal kingdom, we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered, to the mercy and protection of God.

The people add their own petitions. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

After breaking the consecrated bread, the Celebrant says,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served from the aisle, at the bottom of the chancel steps; follow the directions of the acolyte to come forward, one pew at a time, maintaining safe distance from one another. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available. The celebrant will use pincers (tongs) to administer communion to prevent close contact. Please receive the consecrated host in your hand and return to your seat before removing masks to consume the bread. Communion will be administered in one kind, bread, only. Anglican teaching has long upheld that receiving communion in one kind (only bread or only wine) is to have received the sacrament in its entirety. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant and people say together,

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant offers a blessing over the assembly, and the people respond, **Amen.***

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please Pray for the Following in Your Daily Prayers

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew our rector, Sam and Gary our assisting clergy, for our Vestry and staff, for all bishops and ministers, and for all God's people throughout the world.

For Joseph, our President, Roy, our Governor, those who hold elected office, and all those in positions of public trust.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

For healing: Pat, Richard, Darlene, Ray Williams, Michael Silverman, Alex, Lora, Glenn, Ray, John, Doug, Fred, Debbie B., Jon Gates family, Don, Whitley family, June Rose, Graeme, Pat, Thomas Sherwood, James S., Dean Hamric, Lisa Kaufmann, Claudia Clark, Bill Elder, Jr., Terry, Mary Ellen Raulerson, Oliver and Elizabeth

****(Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks, unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.)****

For those who have died: Judy, Steve, Michele, Betty Blackburn, Jason Whitley, Cynthia, Rick, Susan Helsabeck, Blaine Smith, Bill C.

For safe pregnancy and delivery for: Caroline, Anna, Kristen, Amanda, Claire, Kimmi

For those celebrating birthdays this week:

3/15 Linda Norman

3/18 Lynn Searfoss

3/19 Orian Carter, Cathia Silver

Parish Prayer Cycle:

3/14 Ron Tharp

3/15 Frank and Annie Hellen Thomas

3/16 John Thompson and Lee Rocamora

3/17 John and Patti Turner

3/18 Wayne and Lee Harper Vason

3/19 Ann Vaughn

3/20 Robert Kling and Tom Veale

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rector's Forum – We continue a Lenten series entitled, “A Spring in the Desert,” based upon the book by Bishop Frank and Victoria Logue. Join us this morning as we consider sacred stories, ancient teachings, and images of creation from the desert. All are welcome! We gather at 9:00AM via Zoom each Sunday morning – Click [HERE](#) to join the meeting (password: forum).

In-Person Worship continues – Holy Eucharist will be offered on Wednesdays at 12:00PM, in addition to **8:00AM** (without music) and **11:00AM** (with music, live-streamed), each Sunday. Registration for all services of in-person worship will open one week before its scheduled day, at 12:00PM, via Eventbrite. Links will be available on our parish website – [HERE](#). Masks, social distancing, and pre-registration are *required* and the Church will receive a thorough cleaning between services.

Feast of St. Joseph – Holy Eucharist will be offered on Friday, March 19, at 12:00PM in observance of the Feast of St. Joseph. Registration is available online – [HERE](#) – and is limited to ensure social distancing.



Church Open for Prayer – The Church will be open for individual, private prayer during regular office hours (9-5 Monday-Thursday, 9-5 Friday). If a service is scheduled during the week, the Church will close one hour prior and remain closed for one hour following the service. Masks and social distancing are required at all times in the building and the front door will be the only entry available to access the Church.

The Parish Office remains open to parishioners and visitors, by appointment only. Please contact a member of the staff via phone or e-mail before coming to the Church.



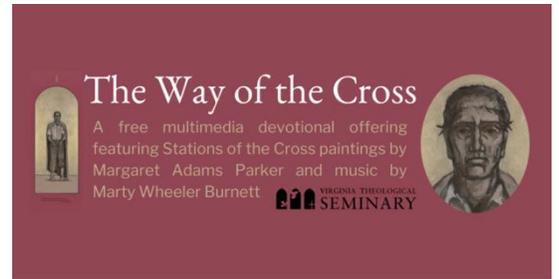
Altar Guild Volunteers - Altar guild members are looking for help preparing for and cleaning up after the 12 o'clock communion service on two Wednesdays each month. We are losing 2 members, one to a relocation and the other to retirement. If you can help summer, winter or full-time, please contact Sue Sweeting - sweetingsue75@yahoo.com or 828-406-9376. Thanks!

Easter Flowers and Music Offerings - In a few short weeks, our worship space will be decorated with flowers to usher in the Easter season. For many, it is a tradition to make a gift toward flowers or to our music program in honor or memory of a loved one, to be acknowledged in the Easter bulletins. If you would like to do so, please complete the form below no later than March 28th. You may mail your donation to the church at PO Box 14, Blowing Rock, NC 28605 or you make click on this link: [HERE](#)

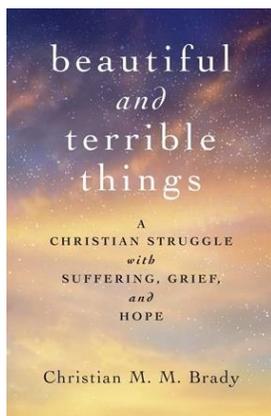


St. Mary of the Hills on YouTube – Did you know that services are available for streaming and are also archived on YouTube? Visit our channel – [HERE](#) - and don't forget to subscribe.

Stations of the Cross - Virginia Theological Seminary is pleased to offer a video version of The Way of the Cross and a reflection guide. Through scripture, art, and music, the video invites us to walk with Christians of every generation on a virtual pilgrimage, meditating on our Lord's passion and death. Many people choose to make the Way of the Cross a part of their devotions during the season of Lent and the Stations are especially appropriate to be prayed on Fridays. The video is available to be prayed at any time and can be accessed by click on the image above. Reflection guides are available on our parish website's [Lent 2021 page](#).



Psalms: Hebrew Expressions of Faith & Hope - Fr. Sam Tallman is offering a Zoom discussion group engaging four familiar Psalms interpreted through the Jewish tradition. There is great power to be found in the ancient Jewish witness of faith for this COVID-time, for our Lenten journey, and for discerning a “new normal” to emerge out of this pandemic. The four sessions will be on Mondays, 3:30-4:45. E-mail Fr. Sam (sam@stmaryofthehills.org) for more information



Lenten Reading 2021 – *It's not too late to join!* Throughout the season of Lent, Fr. Andrew will be offering reflections and leading discussion on the book, *Beautiful and Terrible Things: A Christian Struggle with Suffering, Grief and Hope*. Written by the Reverend Christian Brady, Ph.D., an Episcopal priest and biblical scholar whose research has focused on the Old Testament book of Lamentations, the book is a personal, biblical, and theological struggle with the reality of suffering, pain, and loss. A limited number of books are available from the parish office for \$10. The book is also available online from a variety of booksellers. Study groups will be offered on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:30PM, and Thursday afternoons, 12:00-1:00PM. E-mail Fr. Andrew (rector@stmaryofthehills.org) to be added to the e-mail list.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT
OF ST. MARY OF THE HILLS!**

Your financial contributions enable this mission and ministry of this parish to continue.

An offering plate is placed on the table at the entrance.

Gifts may also be received online at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/donate>
or via mail (P.O. Box 14, Blowing Rock, NC 28607).

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH STAFF

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| The Reverend Andrew J. Hege | Rector |
| The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman | Priest Associate |
| The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster | Assisting Clergy |
| Dr. James Bumgardner | Organist/Choirmaster |
| Greta Wilson | Parish Administrator |
| Joe Raulerson | Financial Secretary |
| Bill Stroh | Sexton |
| Caleb Brigman, Emme Hooks, Kathryn Santiago, Jacob Smith | Choral Scholars |
| Megan Redford, Alex Scheurer, Chloe Shaut | Nursery Assistants |

THE VESTRY

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Sterling Hutcheson | Doug Galke, Jr. Warden | Marjory Holder |
| Gigi Poole | Lisa Kaufman | Faith Jones |
| E.B. Springs | Roy McCraw | Chip Monroe |
| Jim West | Tim Silver, Sr. Warden | Patty Patella |
| | Amanda White, Treasurer | |
| | Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk | |

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