

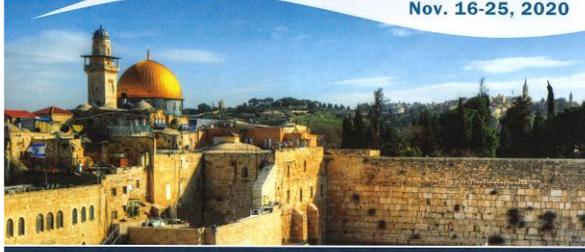
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EO Educational Opportunities Tours

Join The Rev. and Mrs. Kevin (Susan) Warner & The Rev. and Mrs. David (Candy) Allman with St. John Divine Episcopal Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church

Holy Land Classic

Nov. 16-25, 2020



For more information or to register, contact:
Kevin Warner
kwarners@stjohndivine.com • 248-931-3545
David Allman • pastorallman@gmail.com



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOSTS

We invite you to join us on this Holy Land Classic program that will expand our knowledge of the Bible and this sacred land. A journey following in the footsteps of Jesus will change the way you read the Bible, and you will learn why scholars refer to it as the "Fifth Gospel". Please consider this our personal invitation to be a part of this adventure in faith and join us in experiencing a once in a lifetime journey as we walk where Jesus walked!

Revelations

May, 2020

Offering Meaningful Worship

Teaching the Gospel

Caring for God's People



HOLY LAND TRIP – BROCHURE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

KEVIN'S KERYGMA by Fr. Kevin Warner

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. [Mark 16:1-8]

Salome and the Marys went to the tomb to check on Jesus, not because they thought he would be alive, but to do some final corpse maintenance. They were checking on the dead.

Checking on the dead seems to be one of our new habits as we shelter in place. We turn on the news or flip to

Facebook to see who might have succumbed to the virus. Are all our friends and family okay? If not, is it the virus? Has anyone famous caught it? Has anyone famous died? And we do so in isolation. Many of us are coming to understand why solitary confinement is such an effective punishment. Our young people are in the longest time-out ever, our seniors in nursing homes are barred from family visits. It is indeed a hard time.

In the midst of hard times it is important to remember the Easter story. Three things jump out this Eastertide more than ever. Consider these pieces of the story that cover

the Great Fifty Days of Easter and provide us a roadmap on how to endure these difficult times:

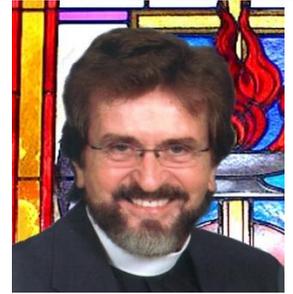
1. **He is risen!** The women, Peter and John, did not find Jesus in the tomb. That night he appeared to all the disciples and the Good News is: Christ has triumphed over death.

I lost a good friend last week. I called his widow and we talked at length and, while she was obviously saddened by her loss, she was completely certain of his salvation and continuing existence. Even as he knew he was dying, he had no fear

(Con't page 5)

WORDS OF WISDOM

by Fr. Lee



May I share with you a letter I wrote to the President of the United States:

Mr. President:

Your shoulders are broad, and that's good; never have we needed an Atlas more than now.

I like the terms your colleagues (both Republican and Democrat) have used in describing you. They say you are "an honest, straightforward man." They call you "a decent man." Above all, they refer to you as a man of your word.

Some of your congressional friends compare you to Harry Truman. They say you know how to take the reins- to grow in the new job. They say you have good judgment and balance.

Your term has just begun, Mr. President, and already you're faced with foreign and economic decisions of major magnitude. I am no Nostradamus; I pretend no visions of what will be or how you should deal with any situation.

But, you did ask for our prayers in your attempt to shoulder your heavy burdens. You have asked for our trust as you pick up the pieces to restore confidence in a shaky government. I accept your entreaties.

May the presidency never weaken but strengthen those qualities your colleagues see in you. May you find gratification in friendship and respect.

May you control the reigns of power with humility and compassion. Lowell's definition of democracy is appropriate, "Not, 'I am as good as you are,' but "'You're as good as I am.'"

The public is so weary of slick, political manipulators, Mr. President. We expect the give and take of intelligent compromise. We applaud your seeking out and listening to others in making decisions. But, most of all, we need a final direction. We trust that direction can be made by you – both as a decisive leader and as a calm communicator.

May we expect from you the finest qualities this great nation deserves – dogged sincerity, integrity, simplicity, fairness, straight-forwardness.

You have our prayers, Mr. President.

This "Open Letter to President Ford" I wrote on August 17, 1974 back when I was still in broadcasting and doing a newspaper column. I have no clue if he read it but I thought I would share it with you because, in this time of great upheaval, I feel we should expect from our leaders, today, the same qualities of good judgment, intelligent compromise, sincerity, simplicity, fairness, and straight-forwardness. And then, pray like crazy.

Father Lee 



Till the Storm Passes By

We are experiencing days of turmoil, fear and to some extent confusion. We have been receiving mixed signals about this virus death in astronomical numbers. We hear of people dying alone without a family member to hold their hands and say goodbye. These are troubling times. But, hold on to your faith. As Christians the only constant in our lives is our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday today and will be the same tomorrow. Remember, the God of the good times is the same of the bad times. One of the things we as a church community should be doing, is maintaining contact with our fellow parishioners either by telephone or one of the social media platforms. With the closure of our church, for many, Sunday was the only social contact they experienced all week. Let us not take it lightly. People are scared. This fear could become exasperated even more when living alone.

My sisters and brothers, the storm will eventually pass over. The question we must ask is “Will our anchor hold in the storm?”

The Lord is Risen! Christ the Lord is Risen Indeed!

In God's Grace and Peace

Aubrey V. Thompson
Head Verger



Rumblings of an Over-Caffeinated, Sleep Deprived Millennial



Improvements to Video

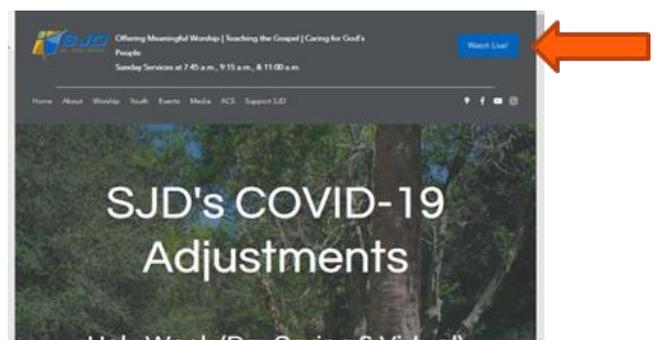
Hello! I am very excited to announce that St. John Divine is getting new cameras! As many may have heard during the [Annual Meeting](#), or just by watching the live stream, our current cameras and controllers are subpar. One of my goals with taking this position was improving our equipment to meet or surpass current standards. These new cameras will help immensely with that goal and you will see that on our live streams. You will also see an improvement in the sanctuary's screens' image quality whenever we use the cameras. With that said let me go over the changes in more detail.

- **Old Cameras Out, New Cameras In!** – We currently use two cameras, one over the booth and one over the center entrance of the Sanctuary. These two cameras will be removed and replaced with three new cameras. One camera will be over the booth, one will be over the center entrance, and a third camera on the same back wall but on the organ side of the sanctuary. The center camera is primarily a static camera that will have a specific shot almost all the time. A static shot is helpful for transitions and will make getting different shots like close ups much easier than presently. This also provides the church with an easy use option so that a minister could come in and turn on the system and record with the static shot.
- **Multiple Camera Feeds for Live Streams** – With the new cameras we will also have new equipment in the booth. One of the new tools will give our Live Streams access to multiple Cameras and the Slides at the same time. This will allow us to focus on the camera shots and provide the slides in the corner of the screen.
- **Rewiring** – We are rewiring the sanctuary and the booth for both our current improvements and for future improvements. There will be cabling that is specifically setup for future upgrades, such as new displays or projectors, an additional camera, and possible changes in the booth.

Thank you to all whose donations made this project, possible. Your support could not have been more timely given our increasing need for quality equipment.

For everyone interested in watching SJD services, Fr. Wyly and Head Verger Aubrey have been Live Streaming our weekly prayer services at 9:00 am on [Facebook](#). Our Sunday Services have been streaming on www.stjohndivine.com and YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/c/stjohndivinescc at 10:00 a.m.

On the top right side of our website you will see a button that reads “Watch Live!”, just click that button and you will be taking to our live stream feed. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email the office at office@stjohndivine.com.



Kevin's Kerygma (con't)

and his wife has a continuing hope that will not fade.

Yes, we will lose friends, family and loved ones, maybe from this virus or something else. No matter what, though, we will see them again. Those of us who continue in this world are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses” [Heb. 12:1] who will cheer us on until we join them in heaven.

2. **We still have work to do.** Forty days after his resurrection, Ascension Day, Jesus tells the disciples to **GO, MAKE, BAPTIZE** and **TEACH**.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” [Matt. 28:19-20a]

Four imperatives that inform us we are not done but have work to do. However, in order to complete this work, we must . . .

3. **Wait.** In addition to the marching orders above, Jesus’ last instruction before his ascension was wait.

“Wait in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” [Luke 24:49b]

Jesus instructed them to go to Jerusalem and wait. Ten days later their waiting was rewarded. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and those with them and the work Jesus had laid out for them, and us, was made possible. Empowered by the Holy Spirit the church grew 3,000 that day, and by the billions since.

These three feasts – Easter, Ascension and Pentecost – have something to say about surviving tough times. Easter teaches us to carry the hope of the resurrection with us always. As Christians, we have nothing to fear and, because of that knowledge, we have the responsibility to carry out Christ’s Great Commandment, given at his Ascension, and share that Good News to those who don’t know it. We then are called to a Pentecost event in our lives, receiving the Holy Spirit that we might carry out Jesus’ wishes.

Even now when we are forbidden to “go” out, we can still reach others. Call someone you know is alone and pray with them. Invite others to join the Livestream and participate in worship, and use this time to walk with Jesus, listen to him, and seek his Spirit. Yes these are difficult times, but it is for times such as these that the Spirit-filled Church is called upon to do its most important work, spreading the Good News that is the Resurrected Christ.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Blessings!

Fr. Kevin+

II Timothy 1:11

εὐαγγέλιον

“The Good News”

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen. - BCP 461



The Book of Common Prayer is an awesome resource. Not only does it contain the prescribed patterns of worship for The Episcopal Church for the administration of The Holy Eucharist, it also contains a treasure trove of prayers for corporate and individual use. The above prayer is one of my favorites! It is found in the section titled “Ministration to the Sick”. As an aside, I find this a curious location for this prayer. While it is a lovely prayer for someone in the midst of illness or disease, it is absolutely appropriate for all of us every day. I think this prayer is especially appropriate for this season in our collective lives. As I write this article, we are still weeks away from the possible easing of any public health restrictions. Schools are still closed; we are still offering Sunday worship and other activities via virtual gatherings; and curfew restrictions have just been “stiffened.” All of this adds to the anxiety and uncertainty of our current situation. This prayer offers a way of seeking guidance from God during this time of quarantine. It reassures us that God may be calling us to do nothing at all...and that’s ok. If doing nothing is what we are called to do, what better way than to do nothing gallantly!

If you would like to discover more about, and deepen your understanding of, our Prayer Book, please let me know. I pray that all of you remain safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing you all again, in person, soon!

Easter Blessings,

Fr. David+



Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others.

Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about." Philippians 4:8 TLB

HEAVEN ON THE MOUNTAIN

The Sisters of St. Mary Annual Silent Retreat
Thursday, June 18 - Sunday, June 21

“When the Heart Listens”

Cost: \$300-400, depending on choice of room; all meals included.

If interested, you may contact:

Connie Keister 814-641-8833,

conniemkeister@gmail.com, Allie Maiocchi
813-629-2002, allier1@tampabay.rr.com

or Sharon Van Loan 813-765-0845,

sharonvanloan@gmail.com. Please visit the Sisters’ website at www.stmary-conventsewanee.org or the Retreat and Conference Center’s website at

www.stmaryssewanee.org.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Jean Brown
5/4	Larry Kleven
5/6	Mark Hunter
5/6	Ethan Ruggles
5/6	Alan Watson
5/7	Curt Arp
5/7	Don Fisher
5/7	Donna Kustron
5/7	Jackie Winder
5/8	Ellen Peck
5/8	Joy Sparkman
5/9	Bill James
5/11	Kelley Lyons
5/12	Elizabeth Arp
5/12	Brad Bell
5/13	Gerry Gardner
5/15	Nancy Weis
5/16	Ray Bellows
5/16	Rolly Ford
5/17	Janice Violetti
5/20	Wayne Lillie
5/21	John Patterson
5/23	Heather Holmes
5/28	Judy Budziak
5/28	Karen Pinckard
5/29	Ron Drummond
5/31	Bradley Miller
5/31	Jim Smith
5/31	Linda Worachek



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/4 – Jackie and Tom Winder
- 5/20 – Shirley & Carl Lingertot
- 5/21 – Beverly & Charles Gaussiran
- 5/29 – Bob and Jennie Lamp
- 5/31 – Father David & Nadine Wyly



We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect, please let us know. Thank you!



Margaret Beaumont
 Long Term Care at Plaza West
 912 American Eagle Blvd
 Sun City Center, FL 33573



Daily Morning Prayer

SJD is offering a service of Morning Prayer, in the Sanctuary, weekdays at 9:00am and via live stream. Please join us and start your day in prayer. If you are interested in learning to Officiate this service, please contact Fr. David.



THANK YOU!!

Thanks to all who shared time and effort and to those who purchased jewelry and crafts, SJD 2020 proceeds for African Team Ministries totaled \$1,465.

Additional donations totaling \$45 will purchase three drip irrigation systems.

Funds raised through sales of African jewelry and crafts are used to help in the care and education of orphans, provide jobs for women to care for children and parents, and to provide food and clean water for many.

THANK YOU

to our parishioners for your generous donations of Easter candy. You helped a lot of children have a Happy Easter!



THANK YOU

for donating items for the Lords Lighthouse. Please remember, NO open or expired packages or containers.



Thank you Choices

would like to thank everyone for your generosity during this difficult time. Loads of baby items were dropped off by Father Kevin along with a nice check.

Thank you all again for supporting Choices



And so it goes, another Circle of Life is now complete. It is with much emotion that we are writing to let you know that Elizabeth Frercks passed away peacefully this afternoon. We are deeply saddened at the thought of never having another conversation with her and not getting another wonderful hug from her, but we also take heart in knowing that her hurting is over, and the healing that God promises His children has finally occurred. She touched so many people's lives over her 85 years here on earth, and we know her light, a remarkable reflection of God's love, will brightly shine on through those who knew and loved her. We are thankful to all who have helped and loved Elizabeth over the years, to those who have graciously reached out to her and her family with offers to help and words of love, encouragement and prayer, and to the hospice staff that have provided her with great care. We know many share in our grief, and you are all in our prayers. For a life well lived, for the profound impact Elizabeth made on everyone she encountered along her life's journey, and for the memory of her loving kindness and caring that will live on in the hearts of so many, to God be all the honor and glory, now and forever. Amen. Blessings to you all. *Liz Frercks, daughter of Elizabeth.*



SJD
St. John Divine **REVELATIONS**

St John Divine Episcopal Church 1015 E. Del Webb Blvd. Sun City Center, FL 33573

813-633-3970

sjd-office@stjohndivine.com

www.stjohndivine.com

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Curt Arp
Aubrey Thompson
Linda Floyd
Liz Hood
Jim Smith
Annie Hunter
Allie Maiocchi
Linda Cardillo
Howard Roshaven

Vestry Officers

Don Fisher Sr. Warden
Greg Diehl Jr. Warden
Valerie Bryant Clerk
Susan Arp Treasurer

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Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rev. Kevin Warner, *Rector*
The Rev. Lee Miller, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. David Wylly, *Assistant Rector*
Scott Gardner, *Praise Leader*
Joan Frankel, *Organist & Choir Director*
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