

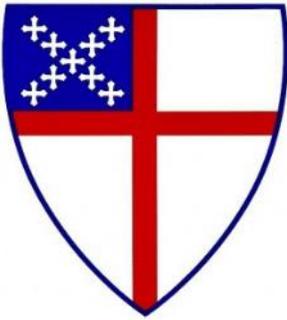


THE ANCHOR

APRIL 2020

St. Clement's by-the-Sea
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcoming all since 1929



**Member, Anglican
Communion
PARISH MISSION:**

Follow Christ through the way we live and love, spreading the good news of God in Christ, opening our hearts to all, and experience and spread joy in the process.



“This Church of Ours is Open To All...There Will Be No Outcasts.”

-The Most Rev. Edmund Browning Emeritus
Presiding Bishop



Trials...

The poet and patriot, Thomas Paine, famously wrote: “These are the times that try men’s souls.”¹ He was speaking of the battle for freedom from tyranny, but his words also speak to our circumstances. With each passing day we read of greater numbers of our compatriots, neighbors and family members afflicted by the tyranny of COVID-19. We see a nation, indeed a world, hunkered down, restricted to home or a handful of places. Families quarantined or self-isolated. Children unable to go to school or even to play together. Breadwinners unable to work. And the tyranny of fear that the numbers of projected deaths plays upon our hearts.



This is our Lent! And as others have written, we have arrived far too early at Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Holy Week, which begins on Sunday is always a somber time. But more so this year than ever for many of us. The journey to the cross is always a difficult one. But, we cannot even gather in person to comfort one another. Yesterday, two parishioners volunteered to do the holy work of removing the consecrated sacrament from the reserve (aumbry) in the sanctuary. The consecrated wine was poured down the piscina, into the ground, and the bread was buried in the memorial garden. In these ways, they were doing the work of Joseph of Arimathea and Mary Magdalene, in their care for Christ’s body.

Though the consecrated sacrament is not present among us, Jesus Christ still is! As he dwells in his beloved followers (Jn 17:23) and is present with us in ways that are beyond all words. Still, we grieve. We feel something is missing. We grieve the terrible losses we’ve experienced in these recent weeks, and our old lives. The way things were, and perhaps the ways they may never be exactly the same again. We took too much for granted and we can’t do that again. We grieve not being able to receive Communion. And having been denied this sacrament since March 8th, our desire for it is so much more acute. We cry out, with that crowd that said to our Lord, “give me this bread always!” (Jn 6:34).

We will come together again. We will again share the sacrament, the bread of life and cup of salvation. And when we do, it will be our Easter! We will, of course, mark Easter on Easter Sunday, with an online worship, as we have been doing. But, when we are physically together again, we will also celebrate our Easter, our Resurrection. We will mourn those who have perished due to Corona. And we will lift up their souls and entrust them to God’s care. Knowing he is doing more for them than we ask or imagine, in that place that our Lord has promised that he has prepared for us, in his Father’s presence (Jn 14:1-4). And we will give thanks for our restored community, nation and world, as we will sing God’s

Continued on next page...

When will that be? It will still be some time off, I'm sorry to say. Early May at the earliest. Paine goes on his poem to write about such a time as that. He reminds us first that, "Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered." But also that, "we have this consolation...the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." I'm looking forward to that "Glorious Triumph!" What will we do in the meanwhile? We will continue gathering online. We will continue to mark out holy time in our schedules, to be with God, and with those we love (even if we are physically apart). We will continue to show the amazing resiliency, faithfulness and creativity that I've seen from you in these weeks now past. You are miraculous!

As has been said of other pandemics, they tend to break apart the social fabric that holds us together because the danger is in other human beings, or own neighbors, friends or family. But, we will not allow that to happen! I've seen how you've loved and cared for one another, even at a distance. We laugh in Satan's face as he tries to pull us apart, unfamiliar as he is with the power of genuine love that can overcome any obstacle, even death and the grave! He knows nothing of that sacrificial love that has smitten our hearts and turned us into a sacred people, a holy priesthood of believers, who trust in the Son of God with all of their being.

Still there are moments, when we will feel unequal to the task. Perhaps this Lent is more holy because we truly feel something akin to what Christ felt in his isolation through his trials before those in power (both ecclesiastical and political). Perhaps we now know something more of his divine love that self-sacrifices so that others may have life, and have it abundantly, in the ways we have made sacrifices in order to safeguard the lives of others. While ours are not of the magnitude of his, still they are holy and good and reflect our growing knowledge of the way of Jesus Christ. One thing we know for sure. Though we may now know something more of his struggle, he certainly knows ours!

If Holy Week teaching us nothing else, it teaches us this: He knows our isolation. He knows our sorrows. He knows our suffering. He knows our gasping for breath. He knows our death. And this too, ironically, is Good News. To paraphrase the author of the Letter to the Hebrews, "he knows our trials, and so can help us through our trials" (2:18). Further that as our Great High Priest he understands our sufferings, when we cry out to him, "Lord, help us!" He gives us mercy and grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). He also bids us, "take up your cross and follow me" (Mt 16:24) in these times, of our own self-sacrificing, and assures us that there is life - with him - beyond these very present struggles.

We long for Easter! We long for reunion. We long to be present to one another in even more meaningful ways. That is a holy desire. We long for Communion with our Lord and Savior. Come Lord and help us. Save your people, whom you have bought with your most precious blood.

As always, I welcome your feedback at: frpatrick@scbythesea.org.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick

¹ "The Crisis," by Thomas Paine, December 1776.

There is a Balm

I wonder if it happened to you but as of Sunday, after hearing Amanda's beautiful recording of *There is a Balm in Gilead*, I haven't been able to let it go, all of a sudden, I find myself humming the melody or starting to sing it.

*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sinsick soul.*

I believe my heart is longing for healing and wholeness. It is longing for a healing balm. This past week that I was back with you, even though not physically, Fr. Patrick asked me to tend to our Spanish speaking parishioners. It has probably been one of the most difficult time during my ministry. As you already know from a previous email from Fr. Patrick, a couple of our parishioners have been diagnosed positive for COVID19. As you may imagine, the uncertainty of what is to come is agonizing. One of them has been admitted to the ICU and is fighting for her life on a ventilator, the family cannot visit but can only wait anxiously for the doctor's call every morning.

In the midst of these challenging times, I have witnessed the unwavering faith of this family and of this community. There is no doubt that God's healing balm is powerfully working in and through them. I have also witnessed the challenges that our brothers and sisters are facing as many of them have lost their jobs and are facing difficult financial times; and even though they all are afraid of what the future holds, they know deep in their hearts that God will provide and that they are not alone. A powerful statement of faith.

As a priest it is a privilege for me to accompany you in your journeys of faith, I rejoice when you are happy and I cry out to God when you are struggling. You all are in my prayers and live deep in my heart. Please know that I am just a phone call away. I would love to hear your voice.

In case you would like to help the families that have been affected please contact Fr. Patrick or myself.

In Christ,

Mo. Norma Guerra

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“Be Still, My Soul”

Fr. Patrick suggested I write a short article for the newsletter about a favorite hymn. Sacred music has always been one of my best-loved forms of music. While there are many great religious anthems, hymns have always been the solid foundation in my life. As a young boy, I have fond memories of my father either singing or whistling hymns of the church. And, as a budding church musician, hymns were the first form of religious music I played as a 12 year old boy for children’s Sunday School services and later adult services when I turned 14.

I’ve found a handful of musical pieces which I find to be “perfect.” What I mean is that the music either by itself or combined with a text seem as if there could be no improvement, that somehow it is perfect just the way it exists without one note in excess or out of place. Of course, for each of us this idea of musical “perfection” will conjure up a different list of musical pieces. But, since this is my article for the April newsletter, I’ll be selfish and highlight one of my favorite hymns, “Be Still, My Soul” by Jean Sibelius. While this hymn is not in the 1982 Hymnal, it has found a wider influence in modern hymnals as of late and I’m hopeful will find a home in the next hymnal published by the Episcopal Church in the United States.

Since the creation of most hymns start with the text, let’s begin there, too. The text was written by Katharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel who was born to an aristocratic family in Germany in 1697. It’s believed that she had been a canonist in an evangelical women’s seminary. One thing we know for certain: she knew her scriptures well, both the Old and the New Testaments. In her hymn, she wove together in a creative and remarkable way a whole series of scriptural themes and references to biblical events. Her hymn text, along with 20 others, were published in 1774 and translated 100 years later into English by Jane L. Borthwick in Scotland and published in “Hymns from the Land of Luther, Series 2.” Here’s the text as sung today:

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;

bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

leave to your God to order and provide;

in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend

through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake

to guide the future as he has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know

his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.*

*Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

I find a great deal of comfort in the text. It depicts God as merciful as well as all-knowing and powerful. It's an image of God that we need today, in my opinion.

For many decades the text was set to various other hymn tunes but without much success or lasting interest. In 1899, the great Finnish composer Jean Sibelius wrote a symphonic work entitled Finlandia which was a covert protest of the growing censorship by the Russian empire. Much of the piece is vigorous and turbulent, representing the Finnish people's national struggle, but toward the end, the serenely melodic "Finlandia Hymn" is introduced. David Evans (1874-1948), a Welsh Oxford-trained organist-choirmaster and music professor, matched the translation with the tune for the *Revised Church Hymnary* (London, 1927). This pairing was brought to the United States when it was used in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. for *The Hymnal* (1933).

Here are some favorite recordings and arrangements of the hymn:

Cantus (men's professional double quartet, recorded for the coronavirus pandemic: <https://youtu.be/YuXrFZBforA>

Finlandia – Symphony by Jean Sibelius (who better to perform than the Finns!): <https://youtu.be/qOSaT6U4e-8?t=330> (I've started the clip at the chorale. Listen to the entire piece when you have the time – it's glorious).

My favorite choir arrangement - Mormon Tabernacle Choir <https://youtu.be/cHNT6G9ZKik>

Vocal Jazz arrangement: https://youtu.be/_6HSrcTvMqU



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 5th

In addition to worshipping via our virtual platform this Palm Sunday there are other ways that we can celebrate as well. You may consider making palm crosses or branch crosses and hanging them in a window or door of your home.

Columbaria

Columbaria Installed in Memorial Garden, Near Completion

By Judy Johnson

On a rainy day in mid-March an enormous flatbed truck with Minnesota license plates pulled up at St. Clement's, the end of a journey that was 1,874 miles long and took almost 3 years.

The truck, driven by two employees of the Eickhof Columbaria company of Crookston, Minnesota (<https://eickhofcolumbaria.com/>) was at St. Clement's to install 104 two-urn niches for the columbarium project that the church envisioned so long ago.

The two columbaria will together hold 104 niches, each capable of holding two urns of sacred remains of beloved, departed parishioners and friends of St. Clement's by the Sea Episcopal Church. About 36 niches have been sold and niche locations reserved; sales are ongoing.

Over three days installation team leader Jorden and his colleague Joe installed the two pre-fabricated units on cements slabs in the Memorial Garden, adjacent to the sanctuary walls and nestled between historic Hollywood Junipers.

A heart-stopping moment occurred when the last of the granite faces was put in place on the front of each niche. The structure is absolutely gorgeous. The variegated white color blends beautifully with the stucco of the sanctuary wall, creating the sense that the columbaria have always been there, a part of our holy space.

The project is not yet complete:

- The finishing top and sides to each columbarium need to be constructed
- City of San Clemente inspections are required
- Upgrades will be made to the landscaping in the Memorial Garden

We don't have a date for the completion of the structure due to COVID-19 schedule delays. We are looking forward to the time when the sacred structure can be blessed by Father Patrick and then inurnments can commence. We are so grateful for your support as we've persevered to make this project a reality.



Delivery truck in front of St. Clement's



Rolling into place



Installed open niches

The columbaria before the stone front faces are installed.



Example of "Out for Inscription"

Each stone niche place will be inscribed when an urn is placed inside.



Installed Columbaria

Finishing touches to the top and sides are not yet complete.



Jordan & Joe

After almost 3 days the installation job is complete.

Love Your Neighbor

Friends -

My prayer is that each of you are healthy and safe, full of peace and allowing the joy of the Lord to remain your strength as we all journey through uncharted waters.

While the situation before us affects each of us in a bit of a different way, one thing for sure is that we are all having to make the needed adjustments. For me wanting to do my best to serve the St. Clement's community I am mostly working from home and trying to maintain some normalcy in our administrative functions. With that I want to say thank you for affording me grace as I get to emails and voicemails and other forms of communication as timely as possible.

As a believer, in this time especially, I also want to be sure that I am doing all I can to love my neighbor. This too may look a bit different for each of us, but the opportunity to love in a greater capacity is before us. In my household we began to seek ideas from The Creator of how we can shine brightly in these times, how we can love our neighbors well and we received several ideas that we have begun to implement them.

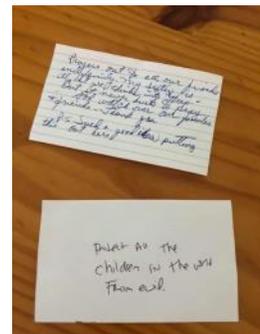
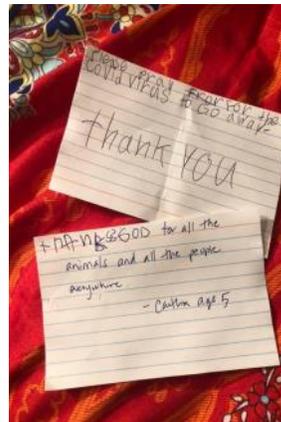
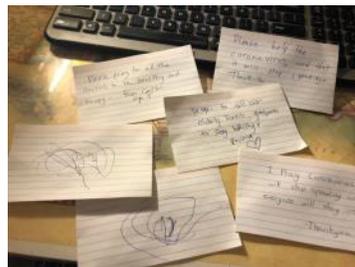
I want to share one of these ideas with you that has been a blessing to our neighbors as well as our household. We have created a Community Prayer Box and placed it in our yard along with pens and index cards so that our neighbors can put in prayers or prayer requests as they are taking walks with their families. This box gets new cards in it almost daily and in our house we pray the prayers and pray for the requests knowing that Our Father is hearing our prayers.

Be encouraged in this time when we are not able to physically gather to worship and love one another. There are still ways for us to stay in unity and pour out love. Attached are some pictures of our Community Prayer Box and prayers that have been coming in.

Love & Blessings!

Spring

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'



April Birthdays

3- Lanneau Miller

4- Larry Gates

5 -Brandon Berube

5 -Cameron Berube

6 -Wesley Ulz

7 - Karen Williams

13- Tina English

14- Patty Clarke

14- Fred Stewart

18- Rebecca Marcu

25- Mark Pocino



April Anniversaries

10-Kent & Laurie Adamson



29- Marc & Carolyn Allen



Blood Drive

April 17th

&

April 24th

10 am - 7 pm

ST. CLEMENT'S BY THE SEA
202 AVENIDA ARAGON
PARISH HALL

St. Clement's by-the-Sea EPISCOPAL CHURCH

San Clemente's First Church

Welcoming all since 1929



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00am Holy Communion Rite I, Nursery

10:00am Holy Communion Rite II with Choir, Nursery, Sunday School

12:00pm La Misa en Español

202 Avenida Aragon
San Clemente, CA 92672

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—9:00am-1:00pm

Tuesday-Friday—8:00am-1:00pm

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The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Rector