



M A R C H 2 0 2 1

The Call



May the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight o Lord our strength and our redeemer.

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2021

Worship

Sunday Services
Morning Prayer
Facebook Friday
Holy Week Youth
Easter Flowers
Holy Week Schedule

Pages 2-4

Formation

Civil Discourse

Page 5

Outreach

Kitchen Shower
Flyin' Lions
La Escuelita Update

Pages 6, 8-10

Parish

Transitions
Thirstday Thursday
Book Club
Day Light Savings
Seder Recipes
Seder Service Order

Pages 5,7,10, 12-20

Stewardship

Financial Page

Pages 11



Lent: Seeing ourselves through Christ's lens of love

This year, the entire Month of March is in the season of Lent. The word “Lent” comes from the old English word “lenten” which meant to “lengthen.” Like many of our church words, it was a secular word that got “baptized.” The word originally just noted that the daylight hours were lengthening throughout the season, and was roughly equivalent to our secular word “spring.” So, Lent didn’t start out being a sad burden to our lives, the way some people think of it. It started out being as fresh as “spring.”

Nonetheless, people think of the season of Lent as mournful and burdensome. “What thing that I love do I have to give up?” “Do I have to eat fish on Fridays?” (You’ll notice that the fast-food commercials have largely changed from burgers to fish sandwiches). “I really don’t like those sad hymns.”

But Lent doesn’t have to get you down. In fact, at a recent vestry meeting, a very wise vestry member said “I think that Lent is my favorite liturgical season of the year. It gives us the opportunity to ‘go deeper’ into our spiritual lives.”

Bingo! That’s exactly the purpose of Lent. Instead of giving up something, we can choose to take on a new spiritual practice – a new daily devotion, follow the suggestions in our Lenten Calendars, play the game “Lent Madness” to learn about various saints in Christian history, take up a daily Bible Study, find some new thing every day to be thankful for, do one random act of kindness for someone else each day of Lent, do something to be better stewards of our bodies and our souls.

Lent is a time to stretch our spiritual muscles. We can do that by examining ourselves– taking a “fearless moral inventory” as the twelve-steppers call it. Looking at our lives, not for the purpose of telling ourselves how wicked we are, but rather for the purpose of making God’s creation better.

Remember that at the end of each day of creation, God says “It was good.” So, our faults and failings don’t make any part of creation (including ourselves) bad. Instead, our faults and failings tarnish the goodness of creation. So Lent is the time to polish away the tarnish on our souls.

And God isn't the troll under the bridge waiting to jump out, holler "gotcha" and drag us off to purgatory or perhaps an even worse neighborhood. Instead, God is ready to love us into becoming better people. Not that we will ever be perfect, but we will always be beloved.

One of the clearest revelations I have ever experienced was when I envisioned myself as a stuffed animal being embraced in the arms of God. It was after a particularly powerful retreat, driving back home from the mountains (where the retreat took place). Driving along, it felt to me as though I was not sitting in the driver's seat in the car at all, but rather I felt like I was sitting in the lap of God (who was a child), and I was not an adult at all, or even a human being, but rather a stuffed teddy bear. And at that point, I had no task to do, no ministry to perform, no obligation, no job at all other than to sit there and be loved on by God.

So, when we examine our faults and failings in life, it is not something to be avoided or dreaded. Instead, our faults and failings are opportunities to make amends to the people we have harmed, to confess our sins, simply in order to remove the obstacles that get in the way of being God's adored and beloved children, the object of God's affection.

It isn't that God will love us any more or any less once we have made amends, confessed our sins, and received forgiveness. Instead, it is that the sins are removed, and we can experience being God's beloved without those faults and failings getting in our way of the experience.

I read in one rather dour publication that "Lent is like a Catholic colonoscopy for our souls." But I'd rather think that it is an opportunity to polish off the tarnish, a chance to remove the obstacles to a life lived in God's love and grace, to remove the smudges on our hearts (like wiping off the ash smudges on our foreheads after Ash Wednesday).

So don't think of Lent as burdensome, sad, mournful; instead, think of Lent as an opportunity to "be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [Ephesians 5:1-2]

Worship offerings are listed below.

FACEBOOK FRIDAYS with JORDANA
Look for Jordana's Friday Reflections during the day.

Morning Prayer

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30am

Join via zoom link below
(passcode 654321)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwbStuQT09>

You can access the service order with the link below

<https://conta.cc/2vRUtpl>



Due to our increasing
Covid cases

We are back to Stage 1B

Join us
at 9:30am on Sunday Mornings

Live stream via
Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>



SEDER MEAL CALLING ALL YOUTH

March 29th

The Worship Committee would like to offer the Seder Meal as a way to kick off Holy Week.

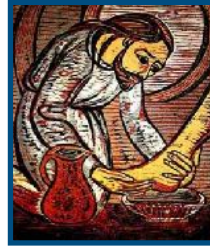
This would be a virtual meal over zoom like we did last year.

Recipes and Service Orders would be provided to each household.

We need the youth to help facilitate the service. This would require our youth taking a reading part in the service just as in years past.

We invite you to sign up at the link below to help us pull this off.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054-ca4a7238-seder1>



Maundy Thursday Opportunities for Youth

The worship committee would love for the youth to help with the Maundy Thursday Service on April 1st at 7pm.

We are looking for musicians, acolytes and readers for various roles in the service.

Musicians would work with Alex days or weeks before the service.

(recordings are done in advance)

Others would serve during the service by helping with foot washing, altar stripping, reading, acolyting and more.

If you have never helped with a Maundy Thursday service before there is no need to be concerned, instruction and rehearsal will be provided prior to the service.

Please sign up below to let us know you are interested and we will be in touch.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054-ca4a7238-maundy>



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flower donations are due by March 26th

Donations are \$20 and will be used for Easter decorations for the church.

Please mail a check to the church office and note Easter Flowers in the memo line or use the link below.

<https://stmarksepiscopal.breezechms.com/form/a01eed>

If using mail please provide your name and phone number.
Please indicate the following:

- a) In loving memory of _____
- b) In celebration of _____
- c) In honor of: _____
- d) In thanksgiving for: _____

Please contact the church office at 704-399-5193 or life@stmarksnc.org with any questions

M A R C H 2 0 2 1



Just because we can't all gather doesn't mean
Holy Week isn't happening.
Find out how we will worship and stay connected
during Holy Week

** Please know this is our current plan. Services & attendance
are subject to change depending on Covid.*

Palm Sunday, March 28th

Online Services at 9:30 through Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>

Seder Meal, March 29th

7pm

You can find our seder meal recipes on the pages to follow. We encourage you to:

Create your meal at home , Set your table and join us via zoom for the service

Recipes and service order on the pages to follow

Zoom link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwbStuQT09>

Stations of the Cross, March 30th

Two links will be available prior to March 30th

One will be an online tour of actual places in Jerusalem where the stations of the cross occurred

One will be a traditional service of stations of the cross in a church in Washington D.C.

Healing Prayers, March 31st

We will offer a live streamed service of healing at noon from the book of occasional services.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>

Maundy Thursday April 1st

7pm Via Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>

Good Friday April 2nd

Solemn Collects

Noon via Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksepiscopalnc>



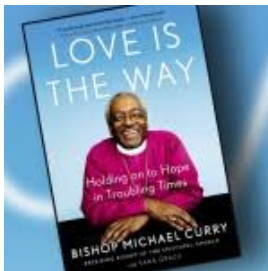
Christian Formation
Civil Discourse is Back.
(by popular demand)



Our final offering will be at 10:45 am on March 7th
via zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwbStuQT09>

Our last session will be Sunday March 7th
Many thanks to Mary Kendrick for making this offering available to us.



St Mark's Book Club
Wednesday March
3rd and 17th
Please join us as we
discuss

Bishop Curry's new book.

Love is the Way: Holding on the Hope in
Troubling Times

We will meet @ 7pm in the church gallery
and via zoom for those who would rather
stay
remote.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5214797294?pwd=WHNacnBUR3R4Z0xkZHIjakhwbStuQT09>

Please contact Mandy Self Sparrow with
any questions.
mandyselfsparrow@gmail.com



Thirstday Thursday
is Scheduled to take
place on
Thursday
March
11th at 6:30pm

We will plan to meet outside at
Parry's Pizza Northlake
Weather permitting.

Please RSVP to David Fahey to let him
know if you would like to attend.

david.fahey@carolina.rr.com
or text to
704-562-7587

Flyin' Lion Kitchen Shower

(now through the end of
March)



The union of the St. Mark's Congregation and the Flyin' Lion Ministries Transition to Employment Program is getting closer. It has all the attributes of a wonderful marriage, right down to a beautiful new home and promises made to bring out the very best in each other. The Vestry and the building committee have worked tirelessly to complete The Rafters and it looks spectacular. The Flyin' Lion staff has planned a curriculum to ensure that our students leave with the knowledge they need to be successfully employed. We have our first student applicant; the culinary staff is in place and in March we will begin training and preparing for an **April 6th opening.**

If we want to carry on with the marriage metaphor, then the only thing we are lacking before the actual wedding day, is a shower. To that end, we are inviting all of you to a **virtual Kitchen Shower!**

The Flyin Lion staff has made a dream list and registered at **Amazon.com** and has chosen some items at **Webstaurant.com** (see links below). For the entire month of March, we would be thrilled to have you visit our list and help us outfit the teaching section of the kitchen. Because of the magnitude of this undertaking, the list is extensive. We know it is the stuff of dreams and we can't expect to have everything we ask for. We also understand these are difficult times. Please know that we will appreciate as many gifts as you are able to give and will put everything to very good use.

When items are purchased for the Flyin' Lion, please ask that they be sent directly to the church, and please provide us with a receipt so that we can both thank you and provide tax information.

May God's blessings be upon each and every one you all for the love and encouragement you have shown this ministry, and may we all, together, do the work God has planned for us.

Please use the links below to shop for kitchen items through the the month of March.

Every item large or small is very much appreciated

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/N68BCURBVA51?ref=wl_share

<https://www.webstaurantstore.com/search/mobile-green-wire-security-cage.html>

Rolling, lockable wire shelves 18X48X69 need 1

<https://www.webstaurantstore.com/search/cutting-boards-white.html>

Cutting boards 18X24X1/2" need 6

Please contact Sue Bartlett with any questions



Birthdays

Steph Ryan Herrin - 3/2
Riley Milholland - 3/3
Vincent Boyle - 3/6
Alan Kathman - 3/7
Mallory Savage - 3/11
Isaac Savage - 3/12
Greg Weeks - 3/15
Robert James - 3/17
Jordana Gheraibeh - 3/21
Elizabeth Wilson - 3/25
James Woolley - 3/25
Chris Kendrick - 3/27
Hannah Savage - 3/27
Don Siegel - 3/28
Jim Wilson - 3/30

Anniversaries

Philip & Melanie Blythe - 3/5
Michael & Elizabeth Havens - 3/5
Rev. Ty & Debra Smithdeal - 3/18
Richard & Mary Beth Masline - 3/19

Prayers for continued healing:

Saunders Black
Martha Ann Springer
Elena Michel and her family
Richard & Mary Beth Masline
Bob Chandler
Jim & Patricia Woolley
Robert Allen
Marlene Bandis

Panera Bread Pick-Up

Alan & Lesli Kathman - 3/5
Scott Hundertmark - 3/12
Mark & Lacy Hamilton - 3/19
Ian & Liesel Doolittle - 3/26



Pandemic Preschool: How it Started and How it's Going

La Escuelita San Marcos (LESM) has served the Spanish-speaking children of North Mecklenburg and their families for the past 8 years. LESM is the only bilingual parent cooperative preschool in North Mecklenburg. Primary services include a Reggio Emilia inspired curriculum for ages 2-5 and the Mama Maestra program, which empowers families inside the classroom as teachers and volunteers. Tuition is kept low to ensure affordability for families.

COVID-19 Impact on Students and Families

La Escuelita San Marcos serves an already vulnerable population reeling from the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on the Latinx community. Most families have lost wages, face increased needs and do not have proper health coverage. Many families do not have transportation.

At the beginning of the pandemic, La Escuelita San Marcos transitioned all its classes to a "Virtual Academy" to serve students. However, some families were not eligible for disaster funding, and preschoolers without school aged siblings were not eligible for broadband internet relief appropriated for K-12. Nearly half of LESM students and their families lacked the technology needed to support remote learning at home.

LESM sought and received a grant from United Way of the Central Carolinas and Foundation for the Carolinas and was able to purchase a Chromebook for all students who needed one, as well as laptops for the teachers. LESM was able to work with partner Caterpillar Ministries to ensure students who needed them had hotspots.

Working with educators that had experience in virtual teaching, LESM adapted their curriculum to a structured set of Monday- Friday classes targeted to 3-5 year olds in the areas of social emotional learning, music and movement, Handwriting Without Tears, phonics, pre-reading skills, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math).

Each student in the Virtual Academy was allotted a 30-45 minute one-on-one weekly private class with his or her teacher as well as a 30-45 minute small group session at the end of the week to review homework tasks. Each month, the students received a package of hands-on learning materials around the month's learning objectives, such as salt writing trays, chalkboards, sensory bins, and traditional school supplies. These items were provided by North Mecklenburg Woman's Club and sponsors throughout the community.

LESM ensured that all classes for all students were accessible from just one shared document, making it simple to access virtual classes each day. Teachers received trainings on Microsoft Teams, Google Suite and Zoom, and assisted parents with learning the technology as well.

When the virus metrics were low, LESM held some outdoor "pop up" style classes. Because many families do not own vehicles, and the van that typically transported those students was not in operation during the pandemic, LESM held these classes close to students' homes.

Impact of LESM's Virtual Program

From the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, to now, about a year later, La Escuelita San Marcos has delivered over a hundred morning meeting "circle times" and over five hundred private classes to students! In total, LESM has delivered over one thousand virtual classes to students!

"LESM helped my child learn numbers and sounds so she will know when she is headed to kindergarten. San Marcos has an amazing team of teachers and lessons planned. Thanks so much for all they do."
-Stephanie

"San Marcos has helped my son a lot. Every day, he learns something new. He is very happy!! Thank you very much to everyone at the San Marcos School!" -Karen

"LESM has helped us a lot. Our son is learning a lot and we feel very comfortable. Thanks to San Marcos for being patient with the children and for teaching them so much!" - Rosa

"La Escuelita San Marcos has helped my daughter learn English. She likes the classes and interacting with the other children, in addition to the activities they have outdoors- she loves it." -Viri

"The school has helped us because thanks to this pandemic, children tend to develop a lot of anxiety, and thanks to having their school at home, they are excited and have a better focus on what is happening. Our son is happy with each class and very grateful for your patience and dedication!" -Maria

"The San Marcos School has helped us learn new words in English, live together more as a family, learn that with simple and natural materials we can do a great job, know how our son likes to learn and see how he practices words in English. He gets excited when he sees his classmates and socializes, and the best thing is to see how he dances!" -Karina

"The San Marcos School has been a huge support for our family. Teachers are people who take their time, dedication and patience to provide our children with a better education with the help of us parents."
-Margina

Transitioning to On Campus

Now, LESM is slowly and safely transitioning back on-campus classes at for those students who are able to provide transportation. These students will access their virtual classes in a "learning pod" along with parent volunteers and some staff.

With a generous grant from United Way of Central Carolinas and Foundation for the Carolinas, LESM was able to purchase equipment to disinfect classrooms, air purifiers, no contact implements, individual manipulatives, and much more. LESM was also able to purchase materials for hybrid learning that are portable and

can be used outdoors or indoors to ensure that no matter where classes are held, students have what they need to learn.

Because many of our students still do not have transportation to and from school, LESM will continue to provide outdoor classes close to student homes.

Our Work Continues...

Our families and staff continue to be impacted by Covid-19, whether through family deaths from the virus, being affected by the virus themselves, or through job loss. Many of our families lack proper nutrition and the money to afford protein. LESM has been working with our sponsors from the community to provide home cooked meals to our families without means to purchase meats.

This past fall, LESM needed to make adaptations to its largest upcoming fundraising event due to social distancing, resulting in a financial shortfall.

LESM is also facing increased spending to ensure an optimal safe and secure reopening in the fall of 2021.

As we look to ways to bring students completely back to campus in Fall 2021, we need continued help from our community and sponsors.

We are proud of our students accomplishments in spite of the pandemic and look forward to continuing our

Tap your head when you hear "m"



CIRCLE ORANGE MAP





Sunday March 14th

2021 Stewardship Update

	2021 Budget	January YTD
Current Pledged Income		
	\$284,731.37	\$23,234.33
All other anticipated income		
Non- Pledge Offerings		
Other income (use of space by outside groups)	\$13,168.00	\$808.00
	\$73,120.00	\$4,025
Sales Tax Refunds		
	\$1,600	-
Daisy Shipp McCoy Foundation Trust Income	\$33,360	\$2,570.26
Total Budgeted Operating Income	\$406,024	\$30,637.59
2020 Budgeted Expenses Approved by Vestry		
Staff		
Diocesan Support	\$201,525.02	\$12,739.41
Campus Maintenance & Utilities	\$42,900	\$3,569.00
Office Admin & Other	\$42,680	\$5,155.84
Youth & Christian Formation	\$26,324	\$2,601.01
Outreach \$ Escuelita Support	\$4,500	\$54.00
Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Stewardship,& Re-treat	\$10,200	\$300.00
	\$3,235	\$117.59
Worship & Music	\$2,765	\$67.82
4% pledges unfulfilled based historic average	\$11,391	
	\$345,520.07	\$24,604.67
Total 2020 Budgeted Expenses		
	\$60,504.25	\$6,032.92
Current Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over disbursements		

2020 Pledge update-83 families: average pledge amount \$3,574.00

YTD Pledge fulfillment 8%

Seder Meal Recipes and Instructions

At the start of the meal, you will want to have the following on each table:

A bowl of salt water or two
Boiled eggs (one for each person)
Matzoh
A bowl of Haroseth
A small bowl of horseradish
A cup with toothpicks in it - one per person
Parsley - one sprig /person
Forks and Knives
Napkins
Wine/Grape Juice glasses
Water glasses
Plates
Programs

Matzoh

(Homemade or Store-bought)

Ingredients:

1 c whole wheat flour
3 T oil
Salt
Water

To make the matzoh: Mix together 1 cup of whole wheat flour, 3 tablespoons of oil, a pinch of salt, and enough water to make a pliable, but not sticky, dough. Knead about 10 -15 times, adding a little flour to the pastry board, if necessary, to keep the dough from sticking. Divide the dough into four pieces, and roll out each piece on a sheet of waxed paper about 9" in diameter (or until bread is about 1/8" thick.) Prick the bread with a fork; then peel off the paper, placing bread on cookie sheets. Bake bread at 400 degrees until crisp but not brown (approximately 8-10 minutes.)

Carrots

Ingredients

Carrots

Oil

Salt and Pepper

Butter

(however much your house can eat)

Set Oven to 400 • Peel Carrots • Lightly Oil Carrots • Salt & Pepper to Taste • Put in oven for 30 min • Add butter to taste • Cook until done (15 min or so minutes)

Asparagus

(however much your house hold can eat)

Set Oven to 400 • Break (do not cut) all bottoms ends off of asparagus • Lightly oil • Salt & Pepper to taste • Add cajun season (optional Bojangles is best) • Roast for 15 min

Haroseth

Ingredients 1 cup walnuts 1 cup raisins

1 large apple

pinch of cinnamon

1/2 cup red wine

Preparation Peel and cut the apple in cubes. Grind all the items but not too fine. Add the wine and mix well .

Yellow Rice: Follow Instructions on Bag

Lamb (can substitute Chicken Breast or Whole Chicken)

Ingredients:

1 bone in leg of lamb (aitchbone removed by butcher)
2 T course salt
2 t Pepper
2 T minced garlic
2 T freshly chopped rosemary plus more for garnish
2 T dijon mustard
2 T extra virgin olive oil
1 c chicken broth or water

Directions

Step 1: For the cleanest-looking presentation, trim 1 1/2 inches of flesh from the shank bone with a sharp paring knife. (Your butcher may be willing to do this for you.)

Step 2 The fell is a thin outer layer of fat that you may find if you buy an untrimmed leg from a butcher. It's very tough, so it's important to remove all of it. A long knife with a sharp thin blade is the best tool for the job.

Step 3 Trim the excess fat that lies beneath the fell, but leave enough to enrich the meat and gravy. It also crisps up nicely when broiled, which helps give the carved slices great texture. Use shears to trim the fat pads around the hip, or large end.

Step 4 Make incisions 1 inch long and 1/2 inch deep all over the leg; they'll allow the aromatic rub to penetrate the meat more easily. Roughening the surface in this way also results in a crisper, more flavorful crust after broiling.

Step 5 Stir together salt, pepper, garlic, rosemary, mustard, and oil in a small bowl until it forms a wet paste. Spread rub evenly over lamb, working it into the incisions. Let lamb sit at room temperature, about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Step 6 Transfer lamb, fat side up, to a large roasting pan fitted with a rack, and add broth. Roast lamb 20 minutes. Reduce temperature to 325 degrees, and roast until a thermometer inserted into thickest part of flesh near the bone reaches 130 degrees to 135 degrees (medium-rare), about 55 minutes. Increase temperature to broil; broil until surface sizzles and becomes brown and crisp, about 5 minutes.

Transfer lamb to a platter or carving board; let rest at least 20 minutes before carving.

Passover Seder – Festival of Spring

Leader: We are about to begin the recitation of the ancient story of Israel's redemption from bondage in Egypt. The purpose of this Seder is to afford us the opportunity to recall the dramatic miraculous events which led to the exodus from an ancient land of slavery. The Bible, centuries ago, instructed us to meet, as we do tonight. The Bible says that young and old should gather for Passover, in order that we might relate this thrilling chapter in the history of the Jewish people.

We have before us the Seder Plate. On it have been placed the main symbols of this service.

Participant 1: First, we have Matzoh, commemorating the bread which our forefathers were compelled to eat during their hasty departure from Egypt.

Participant 2: The second symbol is the roasted lamb, which reminds us of the Paschal Lamb, a special animal sacrifice which our ancestors offered on the altar of the great Temple in Jerusalem, on the Passover holiday. It also reminds us of the blood that the Jews put on their doors so the Angel would "pass over" their house and not kill their first born son during the 10th Plague in Egypt.

Participant 3: The third symbol is a roasted egg, which reminds us of a second offering brought to the Temple on Passover. It reminds us of the new life the Israelites found once freed from Egypt.

Participant 4: The fourth symbol is the Moror (horseradish), the bitter-herbs, which reminds us of the bitterness of slavery, which our ancestors were compelled to endure.

Participant 5: The fifth symbol is the Haroses, made to resemble mortar, used at this time to remind us of the mortar with which our forefathers made bricks for the building of Egyptian cities.

Participant 6: The final symbol is the parsley used to remind us that Passover coincides with the arrival of Spring and the gathering of the Spring harvest. Passover, in ancient times, was also an agricultural festival and an occasion on which our ancestors gave thanks for the earth's rich bounties.

Participant 7: Four times in the course of this Service we shall partake of the wine or juice, a symbol of joy and thanksgiving. This represents the four fold promise which the Lord made to the Israelites that they would be freed from servitude: "I will bring you forth;" "I will deliver you;" "I will redeem you;" and "I will take you."

The Calling of Elijah

Leader: Throughout our people's history Elijah, the Prophet, has been the beloved character pictured in legends as the bearer of good tidings.

Participant 8: Jewish legends recall the mystical appearance of Elijah in times of trouble, to promise relief and redemption, to lift downcast spirits and to plant hope in the hearts of the downtrodden. We have set a place at our table for Elijah to join us.

Participant 1: On this Seder night, when we pray for freedom, we invoke the memory of the beloved Elijah. May his spirit enter our Seder meal bringing a message of hope for the future, faith in the goodness of people, and the assurance that freedom will come to all. Our first ceremony of the Seder is to welcome Elijah, beloved guest at our Seder, as we rise.

(All rise. One person opens the Parish Hall door leaving it open for the rest of the meal.)

All: Direct Thy wrath, O God, upon evil and persecution. Protect Thy people from those who would destroy them. May the Spirit of Elijah, who enters at this hour, enter the hearts of all people. May he inspire them to love Thee, and may he fill them with the desire to build a good world, one in which justice and freedom shall be the inheritance of all.

The Blessing
(The wine/juice should be poured into each glass.)

Leader: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who created the fruit of the vine.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Who has chosen us for Your service among the nations, exalting us by making us holy through Your commandments. In love that you have given us, O Lord our God, holidays for joy and festivals for gladness. You did give us this Feast of Unleavened Bread, the season of our freedom, in commemoration of our liberation from Egypt. You have chosen us for Your service from among the nations and have sanctified us by giving us, with love and gladness, Your holy Festivals as a heritage. Blessed are You, O Lord, who hallowed Israel and the Festivals.

(The first cup of “wine” is drunk.)

The Washing of Hands

Leader: The second ceremony of the Seder is known as the Washing of the Hands. This is a symbolic act of purification, which precedes our participation in this religious Service.

Leader: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by Your Commandments and has commanded us concerning the washing of our hands.

(Two pitchers of water, two bowls, and two towels are brought to the table. Participants take turns washing each others hands.)

The Dipping of the Parsley in Salt Water (Everyone gets a piece of parsley.)

Leader: The third ceremony is partaking of the parsley. We now dip this green fruit of the earth into salt water, as we recite together

All: In partaking of this fruit of the earth, we give thanks to God for all His bounties. We also recall that our forefathers were tillers of the soil, who were ever grateful for the earth's produce. In tasting of the salt water, we are asked to remember the tears which our ancestors shed while suffering the tortures of slavery. May our gratitude for the blessings which we enjoy help to soften the pain of sorrow and convert tears to joy and appreciation.

Leader: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who created the fruit of the universe

(Parsley is dipped into the salt water and eaten.)

The Matzoh Celebration

Leader: I shall break the middle of the Matzoh in two, removing one half and setting it aside. This will become the “Afikomen”, the matzoh that will be hidden and you will have a chance to find at the conclusion of our meal.

(The Afikomen is now hidden and everyone gets a piece of Matzoh.)

Leader: Lo! This is the bread of affliction, the humble and simple bread which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let anyone who is hungry join us at the Seder, and let them partake of what we have to share.

All: With gratitude for the blessings which we have been given, we invite the less fortunate to share with us at this meal, and also at other times.

Leader: May all people, wherever they are, those of the still deprived of total freedom, enjoy that liberty at this time next year. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us by Your commandments and have commanded us to eat Matzoh.

(Matzoh is eaten.)

The Moror (Bitter Herbs) Celebration

Leader: We shall now partake of the Moror, horseradish used to symbolize bitter herbs, combined with the Haroset, an apple mixture used to symbolize the bricks used during slavery. Thus we remember how bitter is slavery and how it can be sweetened by God’s redemption. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us by Your commandments and have commanded us to eat bitter herbs.

(Moror, horseradish, and Haroset, apple mixture, are put on a piece of matzoh and eaten.
The meal is then served.)

The Four Questions (At this time wine/juice should be poured into each glass.)

Participant 2: Why is this night of Passover different from all other nights of the year?

(Youngest) On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread, but on this night we eat only Matzoh, unleavened bread?

On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs, but on this night we eat only Moror (horseradish)?

On all other nights we do not dip parsley into salt water, but on this night we dip parsley into salt water?

On all other nights we sit or recline while eating, but on this night we only recline?

Leader: We shall now answer the four basic questions concerning Passover which you have asked.

All: Once we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord, in His goodness and mercy, brought forth from that land with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

Leader: Had He not rescued us from the hand of the despot, surely we and our children would still be enslaved, deprived of liberty and human dignity.

All: We, therefore, gather to retell this ancient story. For, in reality, it is not ancient but eternal in its message and its spirit. It proclaims man's burning desire to preserve liberty and justice for all.

Leader: The first question asked concerns the use of Matzoh. We eat these unleavened cakes to remember that our ancestors, in their haste to leave Egypt, could not wait for breads to rise and so removed them from the oven while still flat

All: We partake of the Moror, bitter herbs, on this night that we might taste of some bitterness, to remind ourselves how bitter is the lot of one caught in the grip of slavery.

Leader: We dip parsley in salt water to replace tears with gratefulness.

All: The fourth question asks why, on this night, we eat in a reclining position. To recline at mealtimes in ancient days was the sign of a free man. On this night of Passover we demonstrate our sense of complete freedom by reclining during our meal.

Leader: Blessed is God who fulfills His promises, Who is ever faithful to His servants who trust in Him.

(The Second cup of "wine" is drunk.)

The Story of Israel in the Land of Egypt and the Ten Plagues

Leader: The Egyptians whipped and tortured the Israelites, compelling them to make bricks and build great cities for Pharaoh. The Jewish people cried out to God, and he heard their cry. He called Moses, charging him to appear before Pharaoh and to demand that the people be released. Pharaoh was obstinate and would not heed the word God. It was then that Moses foretold the punishment which the Almighty would bring upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians: many plagues would be visited upon the land of Egypt, in which many would perish. Pharaoh defied God and place his trust in his own powers. In consequence the plagues descended upon Egypt. Many perished, and the suffering was great. Pharaoh, nonetheless, remained obstinate; he would not yield. When the tenth plague was visited upon them, the death of first-born sons of Egyptians, a great cry went up throughout Egypt, and Pharaoh finally ordered Moses to take his people out of the land.

Participant 3: When people defy the Will of God, they bring pain and suffering upon themselves. God's Law aims for the welfare and happiness of all mankind. To deny His Law and to do evil brings destruction upon those who perpetrate it.

Participant 4: When Pharaoh defied the command of God to release the Jewish people, he invited adversity upon himself and his own people.

Participant 5: Though the plagues that were visited upon the Egyptians were the result of their own evil, we do not rejoice over their downfall and defeat.

Leader: We regard all people as children of God, even enemies who seek to destroy our people.
All: When for the sake of our welfare, they met with suffering and death, we mourn their loss and express sorrow over their destruction.

(At this time “wine” should be poured into each glass.)

Leader: A full cup is the symbol of complete joy. Though we celebrate the triumph of our sacred cause, our happiness is not complete so long as others had to be sacrificed for its sake. We shall therefore, diminish the wine in our cups as we recall the plagues visited upon the Egyptians, to give expression to our sorrow over the losses which each plague exacted. We now recite the list of the Ten Plagues, putting a drop of “wine” on our plate with our toothpick as each is mentioned

All (Slowly):

Blood

Frogs

Gnats

Flies

Killing of Livestock

Boils

Hail

Locusts

Darkness

Slaying of the Firstborn We are Grateful

Leader: Great and numerous are the kindnesses which the Lord extended to our fathers; for each of them we offer thanks and humble gratitude.

Participant 6: With great loving kindness He redeemed us from Egypt, executing judgement upon our oppressor and the idols they worshiped.

Participant 7: With awesome might He divided the Red Sea, allowing our people to pass over in safety.

Participant 8: With tender care He protected us in the wilderness, granting shelter from the ravages of desert life.

Participant 1: For forty years He provided for all our needs, sending manna from Heaven, food and water to sustain us.

Participant 2: With abundant love He gave us the Sabbath, to afford rest and refreshment for our bodies and souls.

Participant 3: He brought us to Mt. Sinai and gave us the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible.

Participant 4: In triumphant spirit He led us into the land of Israel, where inspired leaders built the Holy Temple.

Participant 5: How great and numerous are the kindnesses which the Lord has shown us, for each act of goodness we are abundantly grateful.

(The third cup of “wine” is drunk.)

The Roasted Egg Celebration

Everyone receives a hard boiled egg. A game is played to see whose egg will be left intact the longest. Go around YOUR TABLE hitting your friend’s egg until one of your eggshells breaks. Once your eggshell is broken, you are out of the game. The player who remains with an unbroken eggshell wins the game! Once you have lost you may eat your egg.

The Closing Prayer

(At this time wine should be poured into each glass.)

Leader: The prescribed order of the Passover Service is now complete. We have retold the ancient story of Israel’s liberation. We have partaken of the traditional foods, symbols of the struggle for human freedom.

All: As we have been privileged to observe the Seder tonight, may all of us be privileged to celebrate it together again next year. May it be God’s will to preserve us in life and in good health.

Leader: We now partake of the fourth cup of wine, as we recite together:

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who created fruit of the vine...Amen

(The fourth cup of “wine” is drunk.)



8600 Mt. Holly
Huntersville Rd.
Huntersville, NC 28078
704-399-5193