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# The Steeple



Mar 20, 2024



## The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Beloved,

Last Sunday, we heard about the ministry of reconciliation. Below is an article from Anna Noon I found helpful.

### Forgiveness and Reconciliation By Anna Noon

It takes one person to forgive, it takes two people to be reunited.  
Lewis Smedes

We sometimes hear people say, "I am not able to forgive this person because there is no way I am going to let them back into my life."

Such a statement conflates forgiveness and reconciliation, when in reality, the two are separate yet related. As we have learned, forgiveness is a choice and the person we are forgiving does not need to be involved in that choice. It's possible the person we are forgiving has died or is completely out of our lives at this point. Even so, a practice of forgiveness can set us free and begin to heal the pain from the injury we have experienced. When we let go of our resentment, we are free to experience a sense of freedom because the injury no longer takes up psychic and spiritual energy in our lives.

Once we have come to a place of forgiveness, then, and only then, can we decide if we want to take the additional step of reconciliation. This can only be done with the person who has hurt us and will require a sincere desire on their part to also seek forgiveness and reconciliation. It is often wise to seek counsel and support from a third party to help navigate this vulnerable process. We should never feel pressure to reconcile with a person who has hurt us if our instincts are telling us it is not wise to do so, or if we simply are not yet ready. We can give ourselves permission to choose forgiveness without reconciliation.

Making it Personal: Have you previously made the choice to forgive, but to not reconcile with a person who hurt you? If so, what did you learn from that? Are you wrestling with the choice

between forgiveness and reconciliation right now with someone? Would seeking counsel help you with your decision and process?

~ This article was taken from Living Well Through Lent 2024. A free resource from The Living Compass.



### Theologian's Corner: Thomas Ken Bishop and Non-Juror

Thomas Ken in the course of his lifetime was both rewarded and punished for his firm adherence to principle. He was born in 1637 and reared by his half-sister Anne and her husband the well-known angler Izaak Walton. He became a clergyman and served for a year at the Hague as chaplain to Mary, Princess of England and Queen of Holland, niece of King Charles II of England and wife of the Dutch King William of Orange. During this year he publicly rebuked King William for his treatment of his wife the said Mary, which may be why he was chaplain there for only a year.

Upon his return to England, he was made Royal Chaplain to King Charles. The King had a mistress, Nell Gwyn, and for his convenience wished to lodge her in his chaplain's residence. Thomas sent the King a sharp refusal, saying that it was not suitable that the Royal Chaplain should double as the Royal Pimp. Charles admired his honesty and bluntness, and when the bishopric of Bath and Wells became available soon after, he declared, "None shall have it but that little man who refused lodging to poor Nellie!" Ken was accordingly made a bishop. When Charles was on his deathbed, it was Ken whom he asked to be with him and prepare him for death.

Under the next king, James II, brother of Charles, matters were different. James converted to Roman Catholicism, the religion of his mother, and political turmoil followed. James issued a decree known as the Declaration of Indulgence, which decreed that various public offices formerly open only to Anglicans, should thereafter be open to all persons. It was feared that the King would appoint large numbers of Roman Catholics to positions of power, and eventually transfer to them the control of the government.

When the King commanded the bishops to proclaim the Declaration of Indulgence, seven of them refused to do so and were by the King's command imprisoned in the Tower of London. The people of London rioted, and the bishops were freed and carried in triumph through the streets of the city. Soon after, Parliament offered the crown to the King's daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange (see above) and James fled into exile.

William and Mary naturally began their reign by demanding oaths of allegiance from all persons holding public positions, including the bishops. Thomas Ken and others (known as the Non-Jurors

-- the older meaning of "juror" is "one who takes an oath," hence "perjurer" as "one who swears falsely") refused to take the oath, on the grounds that they had sworn allegiance to James, and could not during his lifetime swear allegiance to another monarch without making such oaths a mockery. They were accordingly put out of office.

The bishops of Scotland also refused the oath, and William and Mary retaliated by disestablishing the Church in Scotland and making the Presbyterians the official state Church there instead. Therefore, we have in Scotland today the Kirk of Scotland (a Presbyterian Calvinist group which is the established Church there), The Episcopal Kirk of Scotland (an Anglican Church, what is known as a "free" Church in the sense of having no ties with the government), the Free Kirk of Scotland (broken off from the Kirk of Scotland), and the Wee Free Kirk of Scotland (broken off from the Free Kirk--everyone calls them the "Wee Frees" and I do not remember their official name).

Thomas Ken became a private tutor and spent the rest of his life in retirement. He died 19 March 1711 and is usually commemorated on 21 March. During his lifetime he was known for his books of sermons. Today, he is best known for several hymns that he wrote, such as those beginning:

Awake, my soul, and with the sun  
thy daily course of duty run.  
Cast off dull sloth, and joyful rise  
to pay thy morning sacrifice.

All praise to thee, who safe hast kept  
and hast refreshed me while I slept!  
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake,  
I may of endless life partake.

All praise to thee, my God, this night  
for all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, oh keep me, King of Kings,  
beneath Thine own almighty wings.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



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Current pantry needs are: complete pancake mix (just add water), sugar and gently used brown grocery bags with handles; homeless needs: single serve 8-ounce canned vegetables and microwavable cup of soup.

**Please pray for:** Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Diana Farris, Joel Hahn, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Dorothy Buchanan, Peggy Kauffman, Ryan Kiesel, Tony Clapper, Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tim, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Tom Martin, Don Doty, Luke Karel, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Nancy & Joe Norton, Jack Smith, , Sarah Winn, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Molly Ferguson, Tim Curry, Peggy Duncan, Shawn, Nancy Bradford, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, David Chamberlain, and Sherri & Steve Linn.

**Please add the following to your prayers this Fifth Week in Lent:**

**St David's, OKC     St Augustine of Canterbury, Montevideo, Uruguay**

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### At Luke's Place Mar 21, 2024 -Mar 27, 2024

- Mar 21<sup>st</sup> Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am, Metcalf  
Green Country Eucharist from Reserve, 1pm, GCV
- Mar 24<sup>th</sup> Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel  
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf  
Easter Egg Hunt, 9:15am, Courtyard  
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am, meet in Metcalf
- Mar 27<sup>th</sup> Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

### Birthdays and Anniversaries, Mar 24<sup>th</sup> – Mar 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### Birthdays



Blair Ellis (3/25)  
Vicki Travaglini (3/28)  
Nancy Vano (3/28)  
Lauren Green (3/30)

#### Anniversaries



If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!



## March Pack the Backpacks Item!

4 pack or individual PlayDoh Need individuals of Bright Green, Blue, Orange, and Green ! Sometimes you find this item in the the Toy Dept. Let's try to fill that basket this month!



## Thank Cod It's Friday

As they say, "all good things must come to an end." Here we are. For many on Good Friday, a full fast is observed, others abstain from meat, still some eat what they want. With that idea in mind, this is the last installment of Thank Cod It's Friday. For me, I've been saving the best for last. Maybe it's not the best, but it is the most sentimental of fish sandwiches.

This past January, my mom passed away somewhat unexpectedly. If it wasn't for my mom, I might not have ever found my love for fish sandwiches, since she was really the only person in our household who ate fish besides me. Over the past several years, we have waited for the day for Arby's to release their

fish sandwich to the masses for Lent. Usually, I would go and grab the first round of sandwiches and we'd have them for lunch. This year, unfortunately, that didn't get to happen. One of the first real traditions, which will be followed by many, that I have missed with her. So really what started as a joke, turned into a weekly article, has really become a cycle of missing someone and remembering them every week. My mom would've been next to me every Friday trying a new sandwich and telling me what she thinks. I've caught myself over the past weeks grabbing my phone ready to call her to tell her she has to try this one or don't bother with that one. Each time, I remember I no longer have that luxury. In a way, this article has replaced that phone call. So without further ado, here's my favorite Fish Sandwich of Lent.

Arby's, a place known for its meats, has made the perfect fast food fish sandwich. You can argue, but it wouldn't be worth it. The flakiness of the fish is superb and their use of Kings Hawaiian buns for their deluxe sandwich, sends it into another world! Their tartar sauce is by far the best I've found in the fast-food world. Even having it with veggies isn't bad. Here, they offer three kinds: regular, fish n' cheddar, and deluxe. Try them all in one sitting, you won't be disappointed. The only disappointment is that it's not offered all year long.

As this season of Lent is drawing to a close, I want to thank you for putting up with me and my love of fish sandwiches. I hope that maybe you got to try some of them, and maybe pick your favorite. Soon, the world will go back to normal, and all the fish will float back out to sea. Luckily the Golden Arches still has the OG, which is good enough for me.

Chase

Heroes Get Remembered, Legends Never Die



## All Night Vigil at the Altar of Repose

When? Beginning at 9:00pm Maundy Thursday, March 28, and ending at 9:00am Good Friday, March 29.

Where? Chapel- enter from the south side through the Chapel door

For how long? There will be a sign up board in the Narthex with 1 hour slots that overlap. You may sign up for as many hours as you would like.

Why? In Matthew, Jesus asks the disciples “Could you not watch with me for one hour?” The hour can be spent praying, meditating, reading, or sitting quietly. It is your time waiting with Jesus.



Concern is doing a fundraiser downtown apartment and loft tour on 4/16, including a reception with light refreshments. Cost for tickets is \$25. Two times available, either 4:30 or 5:30. For more information and tickets go to [www.concerncares.com](http://www.concerncares.com).



## Compassion

Compassion is something we have for everything and anyone around us. In my life this has been divided into sympathy or empathy. According to the dictionary, empathy is the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another. In other words, you understand how another person is feeling because you've been through the same experience. Some people say that they sympathize with someone. Sympathy is a feeling of sincere

concern for someone who is experiencing something difficult or painful, while empathy involves actively sharing in the emotional experience because you have been through the same pain. Empathy for me has become a little easier every time I talk to people dealing with pain in their life. Talking brings up emotions that you can usually keep in check, but it is good to let it out sometimes.

A good friend of mine is going through some troubling times right now. He reminded me of another person in my life that goes through this daily by sharing this with me. The story is, "The Price of Being a Pastor." Being a Pastor is listed among the four most difficult professions in the United States because a Pastor must be: a Preacher, Example, Father, Husband, Counselor, Conference caller, Planner, Minister, Visionary, Director, Mentor, Friend, Marriage counselor, Youth counselor, Leader's trainer, Intercessor etc. etc. Besides being Keeper of the Temple & Cleaning staff. Every Pastor constantly confronts many different things, such as: The Pastor doesn't visit me, Sermon was too long, the music was too loud, the building is too cold/hot, etc. One of the most difficult things in the life of a Pastor is to know that at some point the people they love will abandon or even betray them. The Pastor is often the loneliest person in the congregation. You may see a Pastor be surrounded by people, but very rarely people who are interested in their problems, needs or even in their lives. If you have a Pastor as a friend, take care of them, pray for them, connect with vision that God gave them, support them, but above all love them. Remember they are human and in the same way they go through the same needs as you. Ee if you don't believe it, many of them have sacrificed comforts, rest, personal plans and so many things including some of their own family's needs to attend God's call. Value the time a Pastor puts into work, the prayers he makes for everyone, the burden he voluntarily carries for ministry. You don't know how much he'd appreciate knowing you do.

I know in my personal life, Father Nic has been there for me, and I pray he knows and understands that I have been very grateful for his guidance and support. I don't know if I have ever informed him of that, but now, as they say, it is written in stone for everyone to see. I can give him compassion, sympathy & empathy as needed and accepted. For the challenge given to me today will be accomplished with help from friends and family and Father Nic. For nothing is impossible with Faith.

I will close with Jeremiah 3:15

"And I will give you shepherds according to my own heart, who shall lead them with knowledge and understanding."







Our wonderful Brunch Bunch ..... and their little leprechaun



YD is sponsoring an Easter  
Egg Hunt  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:15am  
Meet in Metcalf and bring  
your basket  
Ages 0-10





# THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist RII  
@ 6:00 p.m.

All Night Vigil from 9:00 p.m. to 9:00  
a.m.

Good Friday Service RII @ 12:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday Service @ 9:00 a.m.

Easter Vigil @ 6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist RI @ 8:00  
a.m. Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist RII  
@ 10:30a.m.

The Spiritual Discovery Group soon will be beginning a new book study entitled : Living in God's Embrace by Michael Fonseca. This Group meets every Tuesday at 10am in the Library. Questions? See Mthr Andrea Jones. Note: There will be no class Mar 26<sup>th</sup>. We will start back April 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Palm Sunday celebrates  
Jesus' triumphal entry  
into Jerusalem and  
marks the start of Holy  
Week, the final days of  
his earthly ministry.



# BINGO

BY **CASA HISPANA** *night*

**Join us for an evening of Bingo, Raffles, Family Fun, and Hispanic Food**  
**For tickets, call 918.907.1584**

**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30 PM**  
**St Luke's**  
**Episcopal Church**



**\$12**  
Ticket

Include:

-  Admission Price &
-  10 cards

CasaHispana.Bartlesville@gmail.com

**Games start at 6:00 PM**



All proceeds benefit Casa Hispana, a Bartlesville non-profit organization that provides support to local individuals and families by enabling connections to community resources, offering translation services, English and citizenship classes, and providing highly subsidized dental care to under-served communities

See Jeff Birk for Tickets!

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### **Bereavement Team 2**

Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Sandy  
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