



NEWSLETTER – Spring 2025 Volume 2

Happy Easter!!

Please worship with us any/every Sunday at 10 AM and, after the service, join us for hospitality and refreshment.

Watch Emmanuel via Facebook/YouTube

Did you miss it? Would you like to hear it again? No problem. You can catch the live service or later on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#). Want to donate to our continuing ministry? Donate online [HERE](#) or visit our [website donate page](#).

Upcoming/Ongoing Events - Mark Your Calendar!

- Sunday, April 27th 10 AM: 2nd Sunday of Easter, Service of Morning Prayer
- Sunday, May 4th 10 AM: 3rd Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist and last day to submit donations to Good Friday Jerusalem & Middle East offering (see Presiding Bishop letter on page 9)
- Sunday, May 11th 10 AM: 4th Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist (Mothers' Day)
- Sunday, May 18th 10 AM: 5th Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist
- Sunday, May 25th 10 AM: 6th Sunday of Easter, Service of Morning Prayer

Stay tuned for future announcements about visits being planned with our new Diocesan Central Region Canon, Rev. Marissa Stuart Rohrbach and with Rev. Edwin Johnson, Director of Organizing at Episcopal City Mission, to tell us more about the important work, and ways in which we might participate.

Happy Easter – He Has Risen!!!

On Easter Day, we again rejoice shouting “The Lord is risen. The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!!” What a joy-filled day at Emmanuel; a perfect ‘kick-off’ to the 50 days of our Easter season, leading up to the Day of Pentecost in June.

Our altar and chancel were beautifully adorned with fragrant flowers, generously given in memory and in honor of those we love. The Alleluia-filled music was uplifting, and the readings, prayers and sermon were inspiring. Thank you, Esther for your beautiful music! Thank you to all who did the altar work of polishing, cleaning, getting and putting out the flowers, and setting up for and cleaning up after the service. After worshipping together, we continued with a bountiful feast in the Parish Hall and a fabulous talent show, Lift Ev’ry Gift. Thanks to all who shared food and their amazing gifts of reading and song. What a joy-filled way to celebrate the Resurrection! Thank you to the Events Committee – Kafi Belfon, Peggy Byrne, Anne Jackson and Cathy McCarthy for planning, cleaning, decorating, setting and cleaning up. The children (and accompanying youth and adults) enthusiastically enjoyed our Easter Egg hunt for which God provided a sunny day and comfortable temperature. Thanks to Max Gooley for stuffing and hiding eggs and to Natalie and Grant Thelen, Seraiah Belfon and to Max for assisting the adults with helping the small children and keeping them safe.

Scroll to page 3 to read about Emmanuel’s 2025 Journey to Easter and to see photos.

Neponset River Deanery

- The Neponset River Deanery will meet Wednesday, May 21st at 7 PM. The agenda for this meeting will include review and decisioning requests for Sending and Serving and House of Mercy Grants. Emmanuel's elected lay delegates for 2025 are: Ed Fleming, Anne Jackson and Ema Sullivan. Fr. Jon is the Deanery clergy co-convener.

Other Upcoming/Ongoing News & Events

- The Rev. Shannon Kelly has joined the diocesan staff as interim missionary for youth and young adult formation. She most recently served on the presiding bishop's staff as officer for young adult and campus ministry and grant director for the Camino Project. She brings a long vocational history of advocating for and ministering with children, youth, and young adults, and has served congregations and ministries in California, New York and Wisconsin.
- Episcopal City Mission (ECM) has worked closely with churches, partner organizations and legal review to develop guidance for how to handle immigration enforcement actions on church property. ECM's new guide, located at www.episcopalcitymission.org/ice-protocols and available in several languages, includes "Frequently Asked Questions" and sample ICE protocols and policies for Episcopal churches in Massachusetts, covering ICE or Homeland Security presence; privacy and information sharing; and public and private spaces.
- Registration for the **Barbara C Harris Camp and Conference Center 2025 summer camp** is open! The 2025 schedule includes Family Camp, June 27-30 – an extended weekend of shared play, worship, community and rejuvenation that welcomes all family configurations—as well as 4 one-week youth camp sessions July 6 and Aug. 1 that are open to campers completing 2nd through 11th grades. Camperships are available to those with need. For more information, you can ask Fr. Jon, who serves on the board and/or visit: [BCH Center – A ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts](#)
- You can view more Diocesan news online at: [Newsletters | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts \(diomass.org\)](#)

We pray for peace and reconciliation at home, throughout the Ukraine- and the Middle East and everywhere in the world. We pray for those impacted by recent earthquakes, hurricanes, fires and acts of violence.



We pray for those in sorrow, anguish, fear, despair and for those who are sick, especially for those named in this week's Order of Service. We also pray for all who travel, that their journeys may be safe, rejuvenating and filled with the knowledge of God's presence.

A Statement from Presiding Sean Rowe on the death of Pope Francis: "My heart is heavy at the death of our brother in Christ, Pope Francis. Throughout his life and ministry, he has been a witness for the Gospel and a champion for the poor and marginalized. Especially in this season, I give thanks for his powerful advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees. Pope Francis, who was the first Latin American pope, understood these siblings in Christ are never at the

edges, fearful and alone. As he once wrote, “In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help.” In 12 years as the Roman Catholic pontiff, Pope Francis transformed our theology of the environment and recognized the need for LGBTQ+ people to feel heard, seen, and included in their church. We are likewise grateful for his emphasis on reconciliation and ecumenical dialogue, in which our church has participated through the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation in the United States of America.

I thank God for the life of Pope Francis, and ask you to pray for him, for all who loved him, and for our Roman Catholic siblings in Christ. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”

Our prayers truly help, as they keep us mindful of God’s love for us and his miracles.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please be in touch with The Rev. Jonathan Eden, Priest-In-Charge (therev.jonteden@gmail.com 617.798.0770)

Pray for and support Ukraine/ Please consider donating to one of these curated and trusted organizations raising money for Ukraine: <https://www.helpsaveukraine.org/>

Emmanuel’s 2025 Journey to Easter

What a wonderful Lenten and Holy Week journey we had leading up to the celebration of Easter! Beginning with Ash Wednesday and disposition of the ashes with palms burned the night before at our Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras party, we worshipped with Rite 1 liturgy each Sunday. We were enriched by our Lenten formation series on The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), reviewed in both the historical context of the world prior to and at its first edition in 1549 and then we followed its evolution throughout the years. We saw the weaving of the timelines between the establishment of the United States and the creation of the Episcopal Church. We learned that its creation and revisions were driven by the goal of making the prayers and scripture more easily accessible and understood by everyday people, evolving as our world has evolved. We also looked at and discussed similar prayer books from Australian, New Zealand and Celtic traditions. The Episcopal Church does ongoing work to update worship, without losing the original intention. More information about the process and liturgies used today in addition to the printed 1979 BCP is available at the following link:

[Existing Liturgies - STANDING COMMISSION ON LITURGY AND MUSIC \(episcopalcommonprayer.org\).](https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org/)

We kicked off **Holy Week** at Emmanuel with Palm Sunday and the blessing and procession of the palms, while singing “All Glory, Laud and Honor”, a reminder of Jesus’ triumphant ride into Jerusalem. We experienced the betrayals and mob-driven cry to crucify Our Lord and the sorrow of His death, with the reading of The Passion from Luke.

We then physically and spiritually continued our **Holy Week** journey when we joined our lay and clergy friends from some of our Neponset River Deanery churches in services of shared worship. We are grateful to all the clergy and laity who worked so hard to create such profound worship settings.

- Wednesday, we experienced a moving contemplative service of **Tenebrae** hosted by Church of our Savior (COS), Milton, with reading of Lamentations of Jeremiah, Psalms and other readings. Lay and clergy readers from COS and St. Michael’s, Milton, Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan and Emmanuel made the words alive. We prayed as each candle was extinguished and reacted after the loud sound symbolizing the quaking earth at Jesus’ death.

- Thursday, we were welcomed by St. Michael's Milton for **Maundy Thursday** service, rich in music from both soloists and congregational singing led by St. Michael's talented choir. We washed each other's feet and shared Holy Eucharist, after which we silently watched the stripping of the altar. As is their tradition, the St. Michael's men's group extended their hospitality after the service by providing a delicious meal of soups, salad, and bread.
- Emmanuel hosted the solemn **Good Friday** service held with a bare altar and empty Tabernacle and which included a reading of the Passion from John. Our worship was enhanced with beautiful, mournful hymns, including "Were You There When They Crucified our Lord?" while the large wooden cross was carried through the church and placed at the top of the chancel steps, surrounded by the dead palms. As has been the custom for 103 years in the Episcopal Church, our Good Friday offering is given to support our siblings in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Your gift to the Good Friday Offering will support ministry at al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, which has continued to provide essential health care services despite the violence of war; St. George's in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center; an eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen; and the powerful Christian presence of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria, and All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon. ***IF YOU MISSED IT, YOU CAN STILL ADD YOUR OFFERING TO EMMANUEL'S GIFT IF YOU DONATE BY MAY 4th. Please mark your contribution as "GOOD FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST OFFERING".***
- **Easter Vigil** was hosted by our friends at Church of The Holy Spirit (CHS) in Mattapan. The service began with the first new fire and lighting of the Paschal candle, from which each congregational member lit a candle. There were readings and much singing and return of the Alleluias! After we renewed our Baptismal promises, the black curtain which hid the altar was pulled away, replacing the dark with light, and revealing the beauty of the Easter altar. The light brightened as all the altar candles were lit prior to Communion. The experience was especially meaningful since Rev. Z reminded us that this would be her last year hosting the CHS Easter Vigil since she is retiring later this year.

Palm Sunday: Ready to Process



Palm Sunday: Distribution of Palms



Palm Sunday: Palms in Hand



Palm Sunday Sermon



Good Friday: Clergy Lead Our Prayers



Good Friday: It is done



Easter Procession



Easter Light



Easter Day: The Word of the Lord



Easter Sermon



Easter Intercessions



Presenting Easter Gifts of Bread and Wine



Easter Fellowship & Feast = Enjoyed by All



Lift Ev'ry Gift



The Easter Egg Hunt Begins!



We've got the hang of it now!



Advice from a couple of experienced egg hunters!!!



What a beautiful day for an Easter Egg Hunt!



"Cracking" Our Eggs





Lent 2025

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

For 103 years, the Good Friday Offering has supported the ministry of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This Lent, the need is almost unfathomable, and I ask you to join me in making a generous gift at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering.

We do not know what the political future of the Holy Land will be; but whatever that future, our siblings in Christ in The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East will continue to serve God's people through their congregations, hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These vital ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Your gift to the Good Friday Offering will support ministry at al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, which has continued to provide essential health care services despite the violence of war; St. George's in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center; an eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen; and the powerful Christian presence of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria, and All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

It is easy to feel powerless in the face of the human suffering we have witnessed in the Holy Land, but with a gift to the Good Friday Offering at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering, we can help The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East turn despair into hope for thousands of God's people across their region.

Thank you for your generous support this Lent.

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe
The Episcopal Church

To make your gift today:

- Scan the QR code at right
- Visit iam.ec/goodfridayoffering
- Send a check with "Good Friday Offering" in the memo line to:
The Episcopal Church (DFMS)
PO Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983



Information, including bulletin covers, inserts, and more, is available at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering. Questions may be directed to Archdeacon Paul Feheley, Middle East partnership officer, at pfeheley@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6222.