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# *The Outrider*

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March 2003

## *The View from above the Close*

“Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;  
Hide us under the Shadow of your wings.”  
--(from service of Compline)

I am not, by nature, a cynical person. I tend to see the silver linings around the clouds of life. More often than not, I find the “possibility” enmeshed in the problems of life. I take people at their word most of the time.

Yet, I am confused and confounded by the juxtaposition of the conversations going on around me regarding the destruction of the space shuttle and the gathering storm of war in Iraq. In no way do I suggest diminishing the tragedy of the Columbia's terrible and fatal accident. I was at a funeral home preparing for a burial office when the news broke that Saturday morning. The mortician had a TV in his office and we watched in stunned silence as we saw the tapes of the breakup of the spacecraft nearly 40 miles above Texas. We all knew we were watching brave and good people dying. There was a sickness deep in my soul. There was a disturbance in the Force.

However, I was reminded of the comment of that most cynical of tyrants, Joseph Stalin, who once said, “*a single death is a tragedy, a million deaths is a statistic.*” The outpouring of grief and pain over the death of those seven remarkable astronauts was merited, good, appropriate. But little is said in the public forum about the deaths of thousands that will occur if our military—the most powerful fighting and destructive force in the history of the world—invades and conquers Iraq, a country whose culture and economy are more akin to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century than the 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be “statistics” about how many Iraqis perish in battle and as “collateral damage.” And no matter how few American lives are lost, they will be counted among the expected and inevitable *casualties of war*. Somehow the lack of concern about those “*unavoidable*” deaths is boldly highlighted by the degree of remorse over the death of our astronauts.

It seems to me that our faith tells us every life is precious and rare and beloved of God. What is it that leads a nation into mourning about the deaths of the seven while we consciously prepare to bring about the death of thousands? Perhaps Stalin was right. Or perhaps death's claim on our attention and consciences is limited to what touches us as somehow *personal*. Those astronauts—though few of us knew their names before they died, or even knew they were careening

around the earth at unthinkable speeds—represent the *best and brightest* of us...they are, in some ways, the people we all admire and, in some way, long to be. Brave, intelligent, committed, willing to take great risks to advance human life: who cannot but mourn the loss of such men and women?

But, is it not also true, as the Anglican divine and poet, John Donne wrote: "*each man's death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind*"? Are not those nameless, faceless Iraqis and American service people who will surely die if we go to war precious and admirable to those who know them *personally* and love them? Does not God love them and guard them as the apple of his eternal eye? So why is there so much public and prolonged grief over the seven and so little concern for the thousands who will die?

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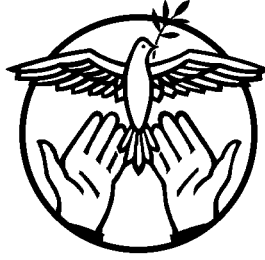
I am not a pacifist. I can imagine situations when I would take up arms—or ask the younger, braver among us to take up arms for me. I can imagine scenarios when the loss of human life for a higher purpose is lamentable but necessary. But I am a Christian and my faith in the God who loves each of us best of all causes me to pause, reflect and (God help me) grow a little cynical about the current rush to war and death. Our nation suffers the indignities of many petty tyrants who oppress their own citizens in nations that don't sit on the world's largest oil reserve. (But there's that uncharacteristic cynicism sneaking in again....)

I heard the President say, "***I know well the cost of war.***" It may be cynical of me, but I don't think he does unless one he knows and loves has died in conflict or as an innocent victim of war. And neither do I know what terrible cost armed aggression brings. But this I do know—all life is precious to our God. And we—as people of faith, as Americans—risk our very souls to take the loss of even a single, anonymous, human life as a "statistic."

Pray, my brothers and sisters, for the souls and the families of those brave men and women whose earthly life flamed out over the Texas desert. And pray as well for those who have the power to plunge our country into the fires of war. Pray that God may hide us all under the shadow of that almighty wing....

Shalom,

**Jim**



## PRAYING FOR PEACE

A question on my mind—and perhaps yours—these days is how to remain faithful to the Prince of Peace amid the rumors of war. We all, I believe, have been living since September 11, 2001 under the cloud of “an intolerable vulnerability”. The issue we must face is our own fears and how we will *live with them*. The way the current administration suggests is to fight the enemy by attacking Iraq. Even those I know who support a war against Saddam Hussein's regime realize that will not put an end to our vulnerability and end our fears. Some of us—myself included—are opposed to military action in Iraq partially because we feel it will make us even more vulnerable and bring with it new fears and dangers.

Several people have asked me, “What can I do?” in the face of the impending war. There is a feeling of inevitability to it all that is disturbing to even some who support the President's plans. Most people feel confused and powerless about decisions that will greatly affect us all.

Bill and Elaine Garretson had a suggestion I found profoundly moving in its simplicity: why don't we pray for peace? So, beginning on Monday, February 17 at 6:15 p.m. - and every Monday thereafter - St. John's will begin hosting a time of prayer for peace. The intention is simple: a time for all who long for peace to join in a time of meditation and prayer each Monday after the work day is over and before evening events and commitments begin. These times of prayer will be only that—a time to pray together. There will be no political content. No matter what your view on the current crisis might be, you are invited to join with other people of faith in asking God to give us the peace this world so desperately needs. We will use only prayers from the BCP at the beginning. Should the group become ecumenical or inter-faith we will seek to find ways to pray together beyond our different religious beliefs.

Consider joining in these quiet witnesses to the power of prayer and the longing for peace. Even if you can't be with us in person, take on the discipline of pausing what you're doing at 6:15 p.m. each Monday to pray for the world's great anguish, for peace in our nation and neighborhoods and for that peace that passes human understanding that God can give our hearts.

Shalom,

**Jim**

**FROM ASHES TO ALLELUIAS**  
**THE LENTEN JOURNEY AND HOLY WEEK LITURGIES AT ST. JOHN'S**



*The 40 days of Lent lead us through a desert of reflection to the experience of Holy Week and Easter—the high holy days of our faith.*

*This year St. John's will be offering two opportunities to feast and celebrate before Lent. Saturday, March 1 will be the first annual Mardi Gras party and Tuesday, March 4 will be the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. As usual, there will be multiple opportunities on Ash Wednesday to begin a holy Lent.*

**LENTEN MEDITATIONS**



The Rector has invited 40+ members of the parish to write short meditations on the daily gospel readings from Ash Wednesday through Easter. These meditations will be gathered into a booklet that will be available on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It would be too costly to mail the booklet to each member of the parish—however; if you can't get by the church to pick one up, please call the office and we'll mail you a copy.

This project will be a way for some of our members to share in your Lenten journey and devotion. Most of the meditations will be on the gospel of John. I hope you'll make every effort to be a part of this exciting opportunity to learn and grow during Lent through the ministry of those members of the parish who will be writing the meditations.

**MARDI-GRAS—SATURDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 6:00 P.M.**



Join the parish family for a night of song and food and not a little mischief! Real Cajun feasting...singing *Alleluias* in the church... A magician will read palms and perform extraordinary magic tricks for children of all ages! Reserve a spot for yourself and friends and family. Wear a mask or full costume. Adults \$7; children and elders \$2.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER—TUESDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> 5-7:00 P.M.**



"Shrove" is from "shriven", which means "having confessed sins and been forgiven." Traditional pancake supper with sausage and hash. Bring your friends. Adults \$3/ Children and elders \$1.

**ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>**



The day we begin our Lenten Journey with the imposition of ashes and the celebration of the Eucharist. (Ashes and communion from the reserved Sacrament will be available on the hour and half-hour if you are unable to make the scheduled services...)

**8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes**

**Preacher: Jim Bradley, Rector**

**12 noon - Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes**

**Preacher: Malinda Johnson, Curate**

**7:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes**

**Preacher: Jim Bradley, Rector**

**SUNDAYS IN LENT (March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6)**

**9 a.m. - Inquiry in Liturgy (in the library)**

The on-going Inquiry Class will examine the way we worship as Episcopalians. We'll look at the Daily Offices and Pastoral Offices as well as the Eucharist. All are welcome...



**TUESDAYS IN LENT (March 11, 18, 25 & April 1)**

**6:30 p.m. Soup and the Senses: Knowing God**

How can we know God through the five senses? Bible Study and experiential learning led by members of the Parish. (A simple supper will be provided by volunteers each week. Sign up to attend and provide soup.)



**FRIDAYS IN LENT (March 7, 14, 21, 28 , April 4 & 11)**

**5:30 p.m. - The Stations of the Cross**

Follow the steps of Jesus from his Trial to his Crucifixion in the Ancient Liturgy led by members of the parish.



**LENTEN QUIET DAY**

**Saturday March 22 - 9 a.m. — noon**

A morning of quiet and reflection. Led by Diane Caggiano.



**THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

Some people find great comfort in private confession as a part of their preparation for Easter. If you desire to have your confession heard, contact either Malinda Johnson or Jim Bradley for an appointment.



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### Sunday, April 13—PALM SUNDAY

8 and 10:15 a.m. Palms, the Passion and Holy Eucharist

4:30 p.m.—Contemplative Eucharist

### Monday, April 14—HOLY MONDAY

12 noon—Noonday Prayers

7:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday, April 15—HOLY TUESDAY

12 noon—Noonday Prayers

7:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday, April 16—HOLY WEDNESDAY

12 noon and 7:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist and Healing

### Thursday, April 17—MAUNDY THURSDAY

12 noon—Noonday Prayers

6:30 p.m.—Soup and Salad Pot Luck

7:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Thursday, April 17-9 p.m.—Friday, April 18-11:30 a.m.

The Vigil at the Altar of Repose

### Friday, April 18—GOOD FRIDAY

12 noon-3 p.m.—The Good Friday Liturgy

7:30 p.m.—The Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, April 19—EASTER EVE

7:30 p.m.—The Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter

### Sunday, April 20—THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION

8 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Choir

10:15 a.m.—Festive Holy Eucharist with Choir and Instruments



## NEWCOMER COFFEE HOUR - MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> - FOLLOWING THE 10:15 A.M. SERVICE



Please come out in force and warmly welcome all of the fantastic new people who have joined us in the past year or so. This is such an exciting time to be a part of St. John's - lots of new faces, new ideas and great energy! Come help us celebrate all this, and make some new friends while you're at it!

## GENERAL CONVENTION 2003



The Triennial (every 3 years) General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held July 30-August 10 in Minneapolis. Jim Bradley is one of the four clergy deputies from Connecticut. The others are Ellen Tillotson of Trinity, Torrington, Barbara Cheney of St. Paul & St. James, New Haven, and Jerry Caroon, a member of the Diocesan staff. There are four Connecticut lay deputies as well.

## UPDATES ON SEMINARIANS



Nancy Gossling, who was our seminarian intern 1999-2000, was installed on January 30 as Rector of St. James in Glastonbury. Bishop Smith officiated and preached. Nancy asked Jim Bradley to be one of the three folks (including the Rector of her home parish in Newtown and the Rector she's worked with as his curate for two years) to represent the clergy of the diocese and present her with the Canons during the service. She especially enjoyed having Jim present her with a copy of church law!

Ruthanna Hooke is now Professor of Homiletics (preaching) at Virginia Theological Seminary. Ruthanna was with us for three years in the late 90's—two as a seminarian and one as our Adult Education Intern. Virginia Seminary is Jim's *alma mater* and the largest Episcopal Seminary. Ruthanna and her partner, Judy Adkins, have moved into faculty housing on the seminary grounds. Roo is nearly finished with her Ph.D. dissertation and should be awarded the degree from Yale this year.

## THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION-BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER pp. 447 ff

□

**□ You do not have to be good.**

**You do not have to walk on your knees**

**for a hundred miles repenting.**

**You only have to let the soft animal of your body**

**love what it loves...(Wild Geese by Mary Oliver)**



Be that as it may, occasionally some of us long for a ritual expression of God's loving and forgiving presence in our lives. A formal confession (referred to by Anglicans as the Rite of Reconciliation) provides an answer to this need. Many Episcopalians make use of this rite as a special form of discipline and devotion, particularly during Lent.

If this is something you would like to explore further, please contact one of the clergy at 754-3116. And if you would be more comfortable receiving this sacrament from someone outside the parish, a referral can be easily made.

## INQUIRY 2003



Our Sunday morning Adult Education for winter and spring will be an inquiry into the Christian faith and Anglican tradition. All are welcome and we will be providing information on what the class will be covering so you can come to sessions of special interest to you. Anyone who wishes to be confirmed or received on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> should attend the classes. Schedule (all classes are at 9 a.m.):

**SCHEDULE:** 3/2, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/27, 5/4, and 5/18. There will be a retreat on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation/Reception is on Saturday, June 7, 2003 at St. John's. (time TBA). June 8 - Feast of Pentecost and honoring of those confirmed/received/reaffirmed.



### CREATIVE CHURCH SCHOOL

The Children's Creative Church School meets each Sunday in March from 9-10:00 a.m. Please try to be on time. The volunteers have given their time to provide a lesson for our children each Sunday. When children arrive late, they feel confused about Church School. When they walk into a class that has already started, they sometimes miss out on activities or crafts. We are very blessed to have a wonderful staff of volunteers who faithfully show up prepared every Sunday. Please show your respect and appreciation for what they are doing by trying to be on time. Coffee and refreshments are available in the Guild Hall Kitchen for parents during Church School.

This month we are pleased to welcome Michelle Mastropietro to our Church School staff. Michelle will join Emily Brown and Jordan Webber in leading our preschool class. We are also glad to have Steve Minkler work with the children on music again. We look forward to their singing during a service this spring.

### IF YOU LIKE TO READ, TALK, AND EAT - PLEASE JOIN US!



The Open Book Reading Group will next meet on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Library for a brown bag lunch (bring your own!). We will be discussing our next selection - The Hours by Michael Cunningham. Our other selections for the next couple of months are: April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Keeping Faith by Jody Picoult. May 7<sup>th</sup> - Cry The Beloved Country by Alan Paton. June 4<sup>th</sup> - The Choir by Joanna Trollope. New readers are always welcome to join us in this fellowship!

### UPDATE ON THE COST OF FLOWERS



The cost of altar flowers has increased! For the past several years, we have had a suggested donation of \$25 when the flowers actually cost at least \$35. We have been supplementing donations for flowers with money from other memorial contributions. The finance council would like your help to make this budget item break even. We are raising the suggested donation for altar flowers to \$35. *We also want to say that we won't turn down a request for memorial altar flowers because of the amount of the contribution.* Since we are only trying to break even on this budget item, we want to suggest a no-cost way to have memorial altar flowers. Some of our most beautiful arrangements have come from your gardens. Please call the church office if you would like to provide a memorial to a loved one with flowers from your garden.

Lorene Castle, Senior Warden



*Note*

*We have usually spoken of God as "He"; increasingly, God is said to be "She". We use these pronouns when a person is absent. When they are with us, we use a name or we say "You". Since we believe that God is always with us, we ought to try addressing God as "You" as in the following:*

***"Forgiven, Loved, And Free"***  
***(In the silence before Communion)***

***"I come with joy to meet my Lord – forgiven,  
loved and free..." (The Hymnal 1982, #304)***

We come into the Church and there before us is the Cross, Your pledge of unconditional and perpetual forgiveness. Jesus' first words from The Cross were "Father forgive..." and we remember that all of the failures and sins and shortcomings that we have lived with, are living with, or will live with have already been forgiven. With You there is a "climate" of forgiveness that has no beginning and no end. Jesus' words were a prayer that You would keep on doing what You have always done. You are a loving God and Your very greatest gift of love is forgiveness.

Knowing ourselves forgiven, we come with joy to meet You, Lord.

In the Bible are many marvelous stories, great ideas, and inspiring words but only one message, and that is, "You love us". Your friend Desmond Tutu wrote recently that, although in his long life he has spoken many thousands of words, he has preached only one sermon, "You love us".

Knowing ourselves loved we, we come with joy to meet You.

Forgiveness and love and freedom - Your gifts, but now are we free? Jesus told us that knowing the truth would make us free, and that truth is Your presence in Jesus' life, Your presence in each one of us, the "inner light" the Quakers speak of. This is the light that enlightens everyone who comes into the world. It is the truth that we need to know about You and Jesus and ourselves and everyone, and it is the truth that needs to be heard by those who do not know it yet.

We experience this truth in a particular way in the bread and the wine, and the community of St. John's gathered in eucharistic celebration around Your holy table.

And so we come with great joy to meet You - forgiven, loved, and free.

*Jack Parker*

**MARCH PARISH PRAYER CYCLE**

**March 2:** Carol Vanderman, Laura & Mario Varrone & Family, Brian Vaugh, Jeremy and Elizabeth Vermette & Family, Vincent & Elena Viega, Arlene Wallace, and Louis Warren.

**March 9:** Christopher and Michelle Webber & Family, Leo & Brenda Webber, Renetta Webber & Family, Marsha Webber & Doug Livingston, Lorraine Weid, William and Bonnie Weiler & Family, and Shirley Weiss & Family.

**March 16:** Dorothy Westerlund, Roger Wheeler, Ryan and Angela White & Family, Janice Wieduwilt, Kimberly Williams, Dorothy and Desrine Wineglass & Family, and Howard & Jane Woods.

**March 23:** Robert & Margaret Worden, Janelle Yaggie, Mary Ellen Yashenko & Family, Flora Young, Edgar and Loribeth Young & Family, John and Jane Yuhas & Family, and Bruce & Denise Zastaury.

**March 30:** Rae Abell & Lucille Ryczer, William & Melonie Adomavicia & Family, Sandy Allard, Jay Anthony, Kenneth and Lisa Aubrie & Family, Michael & Jennifer Aubrie, and Anna Bakun.



**In Memory Of...**

**March 2:** Stanley Baranoski.

**March 9:** Mae Luper Mraz and Arthur Mraz.

**March 23:** Sara Seystahl, Dorothy Robert Seystahl, Charlotte Moran, and Genevieve Hamilton.



**MARCH**

- 3/3 Charles and Martha Kellogg
- 3/11 Bruce and Denise Zastaury
- 3/17 Hank and Harriet Fotter
- 3/23 Robert and Diana McIntosh, Jr.
- 3/29 George and Martha Coulson



**MARCH**

- 3/1 Karen Minkler
- 3/1 Francis Daddona
- 3/1 Sara Wheeler
- 3/1 Bonnie Weiler
- 3/1 Cathy Lanoie
- 3/2 Brittany Bowie
- 3/2 Raven Walker
- 3/3 Nina Golden
- 3/5 Donald Pomeroy
- 3/6 Henry Friez
- 3/7 Nicole Beaudoine
- 3/7 Phyllis Catuccio
- 3/7 Antonio Marques, Jr.
- 3/8 Mark Finney, Jr.
- 3/9 Christine Jewell
- 3/10 Judy Sims
- 3/10 Audrey Sperring
- 3/11 Verdell Bush
- 3/11 Scott Moore
- 3/12 Ron Cebik
- 3/14 Bob Toffey
- 3/14 Karen Rodgers
- 3/14 Katelyn Jobs
- 3/15 Alan Mancinone
- 3/19 Jasmine Bush
- 3/19 Freda Czako
- 3/19 Willie Scott Daniels
- 3/19 Zack Thomas
- 3/19 Marilyn Mitchell
- 3/20 Brandon Decarolis
- 3/22 Gary Payne, Sr.
- 3/23 Michael Santa Maria
- 3/23 Mildred Petteway
- 3/24 Pat Bojarski
- 3/24 Michael Forrester
- 3/24 Gary Payne
- 3/25 Evelyn Hadder
- 3/29 Bertha Anne Lenart
- 3/31 Lisa Mancinone

## WATERBURY DEANERY



The mission of the 15 churches which comprise the Deanery, "is to be a bridge between Episcopal parishes in the Waterbury region by reaching out with our faith in Christ Jesus to our parishes and our community; sharing common experiences, resources, talents, and events; and connecting with the resources and ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of CT, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Some of the recent Deanery activities include:

Disbursement of monies from the Charles H. Harrub Trust Fund, The Missionary Society of the Diocese of CT is guardian of the Harrub Trust Funds. The Probate Court in 2001 ordered distribution of the monies for social service agencies, and general charitable purposes. This includes assistance and support of persons in need, for impoverished persons for food, nutrition, health care services, medical services, medications, shelter, clothing and general necessities to persons living in the community served by the Deanery.

The Deanery then distributed funds to many social services in the greater geographical Waterbury area. In the City of Waterbury, funds went to: Safe Haven, Waterbury Food Bank, and the Waterbury Fuel Bank.

Confirmation is a Deanery event. This year to be held at St. John's, June 7<sup>th</sup>.



Steve Minkler, St. John's treasurer extraordinaire, is also the person who maintains our website (<http://stjohnsongreen.home.att.net>). The office sends him the announcements from the weekly bulletin via email and he posts them on the site. So if you are unable to make the Sunday services, you can still keep up with what is happening at St. John's by checking our website.

## OUTREACH - TEAM 2000

### SAFE HAVEN NEWS

*Serving*



OTHERS

My name is Michelle Webber. It's my pleasure to be joining Diane Caggiano and Jan Gurniak on the Team 2000 Project. Once again we bring St. John's Mission Statement alive through your kindness and compassion - thank you.

The items for March - one baby bath or baby powder or baby lotion or baby shampoo. Please place items in the basket in front of the altar table. Please mark your items "Team 2000". We collect the items the second Sunday of each month.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. We welcome anyone who would like to join us in this rewarding project.

In conclusion my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honorable...[taken from Philippians 4:8].

Michelle Webber



Thank you to Sandy Allard, Jack Parker, and Ted & Pat Bojarski, for your assistance in distributing Day-By-Day booklets to our parishioners who are shut-in. Henry Friez



To everyone who donated money for turkeys for the Holiday Fair. Also to the great kitchen help - many thanks! Gert Payne



Sparkling Emerald Sarah's Jewelry Boutique is not accepting any new jewelry for the Holiday Fair at present. Also four reliable and enthusiastic workers are needed at the jewelry boutique table. Please contact Sarah Haines or Virginia Cole.

Sarah Haines