



THE BEACON



The Anglican Church of Saint Dunstan

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The Rev. Fr. Paul Kolisch, Rector
The Rev. Mr. Christopher E. Hage, Priest

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“But if I were you, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him.
He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.”
Job 5:8-9

The Age of Miracles

As Christians we are called to believe in miracles. Jesus begins his ministry with a miracle at the wedding at Cana where he turns water into wine and indeed this phrase has become shorthand for miracles. Colossians 1:16 reads, “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.” We believe in a God that has created everything, both what we can see and what we cannot see. We believe in a God of miracles. In other ages this was taken as a given that there was a world beyond this one that sometimes touched ours. The medieval world is a world haunted by angels and demons, things visible and invisible. But the Reformation led to theological debates, fracture in the church, and finally decades of religious wars so many people hoped for a more reasonable system of beliefs, one that would not focus on differences but find common ground. Enlightenment thinkers wanted a religion that was reasonable and rational.

To this end writers like Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson adopted Deism. They believed in a Creator who like a great clockmaker made the universe perfectly and then withdrew. The universe ran according to knowable and orderly laws like those discovered by Issac Newton. The purpose of religion was to create moral people and guide them with true precepts. In this view Jesus became a great moral teacher, but not a miracle worker. Paine in his essay *The Age of Reason* critiques the belief in miracles as something that offends reason. Thomas Jefferson famously cut all the miracles out of his “Jefferson” Bible.

The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment set science and reason and religion against each other even though many of the great figures of the Scientific Revolution were men of faith. This tension continues to this day even though it is a false dichotomy. The father of genetics, Gregor Mendel, was an Augustinian friar and abbot. The Big Bang Theory was proposed by a priest and physicist.

We move through the Lenten season in anticipation of Easter and a great miracle, the empty tomb. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Jesus was raised from the dead as promised and through this miracle has triumphed over death. But that is not the end of the miracles. In Pentecost, the birth of the church, we see the Holy Spirit descend on the apostles and they find they can speak in languages they do not know to communicate the good news to all. Some theologians argue that the age of miracles is over. Miracles were part of Christ's ministry and given to the Apostles as signs, but they are no longer an everyday occurrence. Yet we are called to miracles. My daughter is studying anatomy and is amazed as she learns about the inner workings of the body. "Our organs don't fall out because of gravity," she said, "it's amazing!" She hesitates, "It is like a miracle."

The Rogers and Hammerstein musical *Flower Drum Song* is about the experiences of Chinese Americans in San Francisco in the 1950s. It contains many lovely songs but the loveliest is a song entitled *A Hundred Million Miracles*.

A hundred million miracles,
A hundred million miracles are happ'ning ev'ry day,
And those who say they don't agree
Are those who do not hear or see.
A hundred million miracles,
A hundred million miracles are happ'ning ev'ry day,

As we look forward to Easter and Pentecost let us remember the marvelous works of God as shown to us through Christ and his Apostles and through the wonder of his Creation.

A Hundred Million Miracles by Rogers and Hammerstein

My father says that children keep growing,
Rivers keep flowing too.
My father says he doesn't know why,
But somehow or other they do.
--They do! somehow or other they do.--

A hundred million miracles,
A hundred million miracles are happ'ning ev'ry day,
And those who say they don't agree
Are those who do not hear or see.
A hundred million miracles,
A hundred million miracles are happ'ning ev'ry day,

--Miracle of changing weather:--
When a dark blue curtain is pinned by the stars,
Pinned by the stars to the sky,
Ev'ry flow'r and tree is a treat to see,
The air is very clean and dry.

Then a wind comes blowing the pins all away,
Night is confused and upset!
The sky falls down like a clumsy clown,
The flowers and the trees get wet.--Very wet!--

A hundred million miracles,
A hundred million miracles are happ'ning ev'ry day,
And when the wind shall turn his face,
The pins are put right back in place!
A hundred million miracles,
A hundred million miracles are happ'ning ev'ry day!

In ev'ry single minute so much is going on,
Along the Yangtse Kiang or the Tiber or the Don.
A hundred million miracles!

A swallow in Tasmania is sitting on her eggs,
And suddenly those eggs have wings and eyes and beaks and legs!
A hundred million miracles!

A little girl in Chungking, just thirty inches tall,
Decides that she will try to walk and nearly doesn't fall!
A hundred million miracles!

A hundred million miracles, a hundred million miracles,
A hundred million miracles are happ'ning ev'ry day!

My father says the sun will keep rising over the eastern hill.
My father says he doesn't know why but somehow or other it will.
--It will! somehow or other it will.--

(Reprise)

--Miracle of making music:--
When an idle poet puts words on a page,
Writes on a page with his brush,
A musical friend writes the notes to blend
Suggested by an idle thrush.

Then a young soprano reads what they wrote,
Learns every note, every word,
Puts all they wrote in her lovely throat,
And suddenly a song is heard!
--Very Pretty!--

A hundred million miracles, a hundred million miracles,
A hundred million miracles are happ'ning ev'ry day!

Upcoming Events

11-14 March Clergy Retreat - Fr. Paul out of town

Holy Week

24 March Palm Sunday
28 March Maundy Thursday 12 noon Mass and
7 p.m. Mass and Foot Washing
29 March 3 p.m. Good Friday Mass of the Pre-Sanctified and
Veneration of the Cross
30 March Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.
31 March Easter Day (one service) 10 a.m.
1 April Easter Monday 11 a.m.
2 April Easter Tuesday 11 a.m.
10 April Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass 11 a.m.
25 April St. Mark the Evangelist
1 May St. Philip and St. James Mass 11 a.m.
9 May Ascension of our Lord Jesus Mass 11 a.m.
19 May Whitsunday (Pentecost)
20 May Whit Monday
21 May Whit Tuesday
26 May Trinity Sunday
29 May St. Dunstan Mass 11 a.m.

Fridays in Lent – Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m.

Lenten Book Study

For the Lenten book study we will be reading learning about prayer beads and making Anglican rosaries.

Easter Flowers

St Dunstan's will be purchasing our traditional mix of potted Easter flowers from Bachman's. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex. If you don't plan to attend church but would like to contribute to the Easter flower décor, please mail a check to the church and write Easter Flowers and/or your plant choice in the memo line.

Following is a list of the 2024 prices, however, any donation will be appreciated.

Asiatic Lily (pink, yellow, orange) - \$10.00

Azalea (pink) - \$20.00

Hydrangea (blue) - \$20.00

Lily (white) - \$10.00

Mum (yellow, white) - \$12.00

Pansy Bowl (10 inch) - \$12.00

Tulip (yellow, purple, pink) - \$9.00

Please note: There is a new flower choice, the Asiatic Lily, available in 3 colors. Also, the Pansy Bowl is a smaller size, (10 inches) for a lower price.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or send me an email.

Dawn De Nio, Altar Guild email: roytexman@gmail.com Phone: 952-542-1778

St. Dunstan's Prayer Request List

When entering the front door and going up the steps you will see a tall stand with a pile of the current weekly prayer request list. I encourage you to take one and when you have time to review it and see who is on the list. I am making an effort to keep it current, but I could use your help. Please see if any of your requests have changed and need to be reworded, removed or are correct as listed. Also, please let me know if you have a prayer that you would like to add. If you want to add someone, please give me the following information: First, name of person, the relationship to you---such as: friend, family (spouse, son, daughter), co worker. etc. Then who is making the request? You or you and your spouse/family, and names. Then send it to me by email, text, or phone call.

Vicki Hepperlen, thep8893@aol.com, or 712-490-3106, or write it down and hand it to me after church. I always appreciate an occasional update-so that I can keep the prayers current. Having been a recipient of many prayers when I was going through my cancer journey--I truly know the power of prayer. Thanks for your help.

Vicki Hepperlen

Ministry Schedule for March/April/May

March 3rd – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Altar Guild Carol Freed
Acolytes 8:00 Claeys
10:00 Murphy
Lector Jay Myer
Ushers Roxanne D.

March 10th – 4th Sunday in Lent

Altar Guild Barb Myer
Acolytes 8:00 Canada
10:00 Woiwor
Lector Dick Cochrane
Ushers The Myers

March 17th – 5th Sunday in Lent

Altar Guild Dawn De Nio
Acolytes 8:00 Claeys
10:00 Davenport
Lector Rob Davenport
Ushers Dick Davis

March 24th – Palm Sunday

Altar Guild Jane Spann
Acolytes 8:00 Canada
10:00 Murphy
Lector Barnes Murphy
Ushers Dick Cochrane Donna Kaufer

March 29th - Good Friday

3 p.m. Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

March 30th – Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.

Altar Guild All in attendance
Acolytes Paul-Stephen, Murphy, Woiwor,
Davenport, Canada
Lectors As Assigned
Ushers All in Attendance

March 31st – Easter Sunday

Altar Guild All in Attendance
Acolytes 10:00 Claeys
Lector Paul Stephen
Ushers Donna Kaufer

April 7th – 1st Sunday after Easter

Altar Guild- Carol Freed
Acolytes 8:00 Canada
10:00 Davenport
Lector John Winslow
Ushers Roxanne D.

April 14th – 2nd Sunday after Easter

Altar Guild Barb Myer
Acolytes 8:00 Claeys
10:00 Murphy
Lector Mark Freed
Ushers The Myers

April 21st – 3rd Sunday after Easter

Altar Guild Dawn DeNio
Acolytes 8:00 Canada
10:00 Woiwor
Lector Dick Cochrane
Ushers Dick Davis

April 28th – 4th Sunday after Easter

Altar Guild Jane Spann
Acolytes 8:00 Claeys
10:00 Davenport
Lector Rob Davenport
Ushers Dick Cochrane Donna Kaufer

May 5th – 5th Sunday after Easter

Altar Guild Carol Freed
Acolytes 8:00 Canada
10:00 Murphy
Lector Barnes Murphy
Ushers Roxanne Davenport

May 12th – 6th Sunday after Easter

Altar Guild Barb Myer
Acolytes 8:00 Claeys
10:00 Woiwor
Lector Paul Stephen
Ushers The Myers

May 19th – Pentecost

Altar Guild Dawn DeNio
Acolytes 8:00 Canada
10:00 Acolyte Corps
Lector John Winslow
Ushers Jerry Keehr and Dick Davis

May 26th – Trinity Sunday
 Altar Guild Jane Spann
 Acolytes 8:00 Claeys
 10:00 Davenport
 Lector Mark Freed
 Ushers Dick Cochrane Donna Kaufer

For your prayers our March/April/May Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 4	Gannon and Amy Murphy	Wedding Anniversary
March 5	Chris Hage +	Birthday
March 18	P.K. Andersen	Birthday
March 20	Lydia Carlson	Birthday
March 23	Myles Murphy	Birthday
March 26	Katy Murphy	Birthday
March 27	Katy Hovsepian	Birthday
March 29	Brian Davis	Birthday
April 1	Linda Deiters	Birthday
April 6	Elizabeth Hovsepian	Birthday
April 15	Richard and Donna Davis	Wedding Anniversary 1961
April 17	Reagan Davenport	Birthday
April 25	David Osten	Birthday
May 2	Ronald LaFavor	Birthday
May 12	John Winslow	Birthday
May 31	Rushika Hage	Birthday

Prayer for a Birthday. Watch over thy child, [N.], O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him where he may be, keeping him unspotted from the world. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he fall; and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for a Wedding Anniversary. O God, who hast consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church: Look mercifully upon thy servants, N. and N., that both this man may love his wife, according to thy Word, (as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for it, loving and cherishing it even as his own flesh,) and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, faithful and obedient to her husband; and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for an Anniversary (“Year's Mind”) of One Departed. Almighty God, we remember this day before thee thy faithful servant [N.], and we pray thee that, having opened to him the gates of larger life, thou wilt receive him more and more into thy joyful service; that he may win, with thee and thy servants everywhere, the eternal victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mission Statement of the Anglican Church of St. Dunstan

We are a Traditional Anglican Church – Catholic Faith with the Anglican Tradition

We believe:

- The Bible is the Word of God
- With the Word of God, we hold the Creeds of the Church, the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Creed of St. Athanasius to be sufficient statements of our faith
- We are a Liturgical Church and we celebrate the Seven Sacraments of the Church Catholic
- We recognize three orders of ordained ministry in the Apostolic Succession
- God created us to be His people, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the people of the World.

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