

Rectors Report 03/21/2024

Worship Report

The change in worship style over Lent seems to, largely, have been either appreciated or been held lightly. Members of the 8am service have rather liked the change to the New Zealand Prayer Book and a number of folks from 11am (generally those for whom the language was familiar) appreciated the switch to Rite I.

Wiggle Worship has seen a couple of changes as well. I've tended to think of Wiggle Worship time as connected to formation as we practice prayer and hear stories of the Gospel. I had been using the standard Rite II collect with the kids, which proved a helpful challenge for some, but I felt it a little too arcane for the younger kids. I've begun adapting the Rite II collect of the day to the more kid-friendly language. I've also done the same with the Gospel. In addition, I introduced this past Sunday something called "The Gospel Word." The rubrics in the Book of Common Prayer call for the Gospel to be read at every eucharist. However, because of the way Wiggle Worship has been formatted, that means that kids have only ever heard Gospel stories in that space. "The Gospel Word" which I hope to have read by a kid, is a short snippet from the Gospel which allows for more participation and allows me to tell stories of the Hebrew Bible that we can get into in Wiggle Worship (e.g. Noah's Ark, Genesis, Moses and Egypt, etc.).

This also opens up greater possibilities for the summer. During my paternity leave, any supply priests would be able to do the 8am and 11am services fairly straightforwardly. At Wiggle Worship, I imagine that we can encourage parents and other leaders to guide the worship space and tell a story, leaving clergy to handle the table.

I anticipate forming such a Rota and coalescing a liturgy team to discuss the ins and outs of worship after Easter. My first unofficial meeting will be this Friday with Trish Joy and Peter Walters (with Julie Dulski present in spirit) as we both talk Holy Week and think about a liturgy team. My hope is that such a team can help keep worship fresh and connected to the people's needs.

Staff Updates

Largely, Christa and Richard are on auto-pilot right now which I take as a great gift. They both tell me what they need regularly and seem to be doing well. Ann is also getting a greater and greater sense of flow and better understanding what questions to ask and when. There have been persistent typos and errors in different places in bulletins for some time, an issue that had been present with Uziel as well but which became more noticeable as Ann begun undertaking many of his duties. I have been assisted by the wardens and Eileen Murphy in proofing these documents and as such I believe that the last few Sundays have been increasingly error free.

Ann is also taking more upon herself without asking which has been SO appreciated. Navigating copier issues, ordering coffee on Sundays, keeping bulletin boards up-to-date and more has been incredibly helpful. She also is enjoying doing the Messenger each week which I look at ahead of its being sent to add my pieces.

Summer Stuff and Paternity Leave

After Holy Week, my hope is that the church slows down somewhat, but not entirely. I think having a season of rest in the summer helps us have space for getting excited again come the Fall. That said, I want the church to keep doing stuff. In that regard, we have things planned through April but will find ourselves with time to fill come May, June, July, and August. Fiona and I received news that she will likely be induced early, and as such, my guess is that the baby will be upon us in late May or early June.

This is good timing in many regards, but especially for programming. Luke Laurel and his wife Amy have proposed a fellowship dinners program called Hearthsides in which groups of around 4 families would be created and over 5 months, they would each get to host at least once. This would meet a longstanding desire for fellowship in the church. I would love for Christa to throw a summer version of the Blue Christmas service, perhaps even performing on the lawn. She pitched this to me and I think it's a wonderful idea. Finally, I would love for our outreach folks to advertise an outreach push into a series of opportunities or one big opportunity ideally connected with Housing Forward or Beyond Hunger. I have St. Mark's Summer of Service in the back of my mind and the advertising they did to show all the ways folks could get involved in service over the summer.

These are some ideas for what could happen over the summer, especially being led by others while I'm busy baby-ing it up. Given it'll be summer and I'll be a proud poppa, I'm sure I'll be excited to do things outside so I can show off the new kid safely.

Current Calendar of Planned Events:

03/24 – Palm Sunday and Holy Week Begins

03/31 – Easter Sunday

04/07 – Baptism of Millie Volz

04/14 – Chili Cook Off

04/19 – Thank You God For Video Games (Kids and family event)

05/19 – Pentecost and the baby window REALLY opens

In May or June – Outdoor Sunshine Service (Blue Christmas in Summer)

07/07 – Fourth of July Friendly Sunday

Summer Star Wars Movie Night (Largely because I owe the non-swifties a flick night)

09/01 – George performing a wedding in MKE

09/02 – Labor Day

09/08 – Kick-off Sunday (Prepare the bounce house!)

Fall Celebration of Richard's ministry

Late September/Early October – Donut Day

10/31 – Halloween for the Neighborhood at St. C.'s

11/03 – All Saint's Sunday with Evensong (Meal before evensong?)

11/24 – Christ the King

11/28 – Thanksgiving (Morning Prayer either at church or over zoom)

12/5 – Advent Craft Night (5PM)

12/15 – Greening the Church and Lessons and Carols

12/19 – Blue Christmas

12/24 – 4PM Kid Friendly Christmas Eve

10PM Christmas Eve

12/25 – 10AM Christmas Day Service

Late Feb/ Early March Chili cook off