



Holy Week

April 7, 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings to you all as we near the end of our Lenten journey for this year. As our Lenten season has invited us to, we have been considering the question, **“Do you turn to Christ?”** What does it mean for us to turn to Christ anyway? Remember back to the first disciples. According to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, fishermen were going about their day fishing, cleaning nets, and simply making an honest day’s living. Can we imagine being down on the shore with them? Sand between their toes, smelly from the fish and the heat of the day? They were perhaps tired, and thinking of going home to their families and having dinner. Two of them, James and John, were already cleaning their nets. Then some guy walking down the beach came up to them and requested that they follow him. Had they met Him before? Did they know Him? If they didn’t, how outrageous was that, that He would ask them? And so regardless, they went! They dropped their nets, and as the scripture tells us, **“they immediately followed him”** (Matt 4:20-22). The fishermen had probably been looking out into the Sea of Galilee tending their nets, and upon hearing Jesus’ invitation they turned around to face him, and they went straight away, following Him in the opposite direction. That is a beautiful image for us to think of as we ponder the question, **“Do you turn to Christ?”** for ourselves. Getting back to the story, Peter, Andrew, James and John did not pop home first to grab a bag of essentials; they didn’t call or text their loved ones to say good bye. No, immediately, they went. Turning to Christ that day disrupted everything they had ever known. Following Jesus that day intruded on family and plans and the life they knew.

Jesus was very specific in His invitation to these four fishermen. His request for them to follow him wasn’t simply to go for a stroll by the lake, or come for supper - or even to try a new religion! Following Jesus was, and is now, about something with a very specific purpose. Jesus asked the fishermen to join Him in His mission of saving people. **“I will make you fish for people,”** He said (4:19). Jesus was inviting them to have a relationship with Him. Following the call of Jesus meant personal transformation. What does turning to Christ mean to us? Does it mean reading our Bibles and praying and attending church worship? (Those are all great things to do, by the way). And does **turning to Christ**, mean that we are disturbed out of our normal routines, that we turn away from world’s values that go against the love of God. Does turning to Christ mean standing up for what is right in God’s eyes even if it might intrude on our complacent ways? Are we willing to leave our safe places to go immediately in order that someone else might come to know our Lord because of us? Do we remember to turn to Christ when we are lost or when we are hurting? Do we remember to keep following Christ when all is going well in our lives and we can celebrate? Do we turn to Christ when we are crazy busy, or just when we have spare time? Let us consider the invitation to turn to Jesus in every aspect of our living.

Do you turn to Christ?

This coming week we are invited to follow Jesus through the highest highs and lowest lows of His existence. From waving palms this Sunday, to remembering the Paschal Meal Jesus shared with his disciples and

St. Augustine’s Parkland Anglican Church, 131 Church Road, Spruce Grove

staugustinesparkland@gmail.com

staugustinesparkland.org

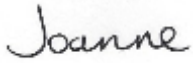
780-962-5131

Rev. Joanne Webster - Rector

where he washed their feet (Maundy Thursday), to the depths of despair and darkness of sin and pain (Good Friday), to our waiting vigil and lighting the paschal candle from the new light (Saturday), to the celebration of the glorious Resurrection on Easter morning. I invite us all to enter this journey together, and to practice **turning to Christ** each day. The times of all the services as well as some other important dates are listed below.

I pray that you may all have a very blessed Holy Week and Easter season.

Faithfully,



Rev. Joanne Webster - Rector



Easter Services

Wednesday April 12 th	- Taize Prayer Service	7:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday April 13 th	- Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday April 14 th	- Coffee & hot cross buns	9:00 a.m.
	- Family Service with Meditation on the Cross	10:00 a.m.
Saturday April 15 th	- Easter Vigil: lighting the new light & recalling our history	8:00 p.m.
	<i>(we are hosting Good Shepherd Lutheran & St. Matthew's Lutheran at this service)</i>	
Easter Morning Apr 16 th	- Celebration of the Resurrection! Alleluia!!!	10:00 a.m.

Other Important Dates

Spring Tea and plant sale	- Saturday May 13 th	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Car Boot Sale	- Saturday May 27 th	9:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Vacation Bible School	- July 10 th - 14 th	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily

St. Augustine's Parkland Anglican Church, 131 Church Road, Spruce Grove

staugustinesparkland@gmail.com

staugustinesparkland.org

780-962-5131

Rev. Joanne Webster - Rector