

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH**  
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Lent 2018

XV Easter Dawn

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves  
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept  
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs  
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,  
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
That brightens as she chokes out her reply  
'They took my love away, my day is night'  
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say  
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

From Sounding the Seasons by Malcolm Guite

Dear Friends and Member of Messiah,

This beautiful poem by Malcolm Guite speaks to the great truth of faith, that we experience God in community through our willingness to be in relationship. It describes the deep connection between Jesus having risen from the tomb and Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morning. Holy Week and Easter provide us with an opportunity to go deeper in our relationships with one another, with worship and with God. In reflecting on

the events leading to the death of Jesus on the Cross, we can draw closer to the harder parts of our lives which include loss, suffering and grief.

Each day between Palm Sunday and Easter affords experiences which are unique in the church year and culminates in the wonderful celebration of Easter. To help you choose which services you may wish to attend I have attached a schedule for Holy Week and Easter 2018.

As we seek to provide experiences which deepen our relationships, we will continue our tradition of transforming the church for Easter into a beautiful garden of flowers and plants, as well as continuing to expand our music program for Holy Week. Your support for the decorations and music are especially appreciated. Here are a few highlights:

**Palm Sunday:** A procession with music for highland bagpipes and organ, along with familiar hymns, and anthems sung by our choir.

**Good Friday:** Our choir sings Renaissance choral music of Monteverdi, Jacob Handl, and Tomas Luis da Victoria.

**Easter Day at 10:00 a.m.:** Hallelujah Chorus sung by our choir and friends from the congregation. Easter hymns accompanied by brass quartet, plus music of Gabrieli, Vaughan Williams, and Widor.

Special offering forms for flowers and music are included with this letter. I thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity in your Easter offerings. Please complete and return the forms to the parish office by Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, so that your memorials or thanksgivings can be included in the Easter bulletins.

I look forward to welcoming you to our services this Holy Week and Easter and will keep you in my prayers as we gather as a community to remember, pray and celebrate.

May God's blessing continue to be upon you now and always.

Yours in faith,