



A Different Kind of Easter

Easter is here again! And what a strange one this will be. No dressing up for church, no joyful singing of "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," no packed sanctuary, and...no Easter breakfast!

I love driving into the parking lot on Easter morning to the smell of sausage cooking and the sight of the Men's Group guys in aprons hard at work making breakfast AND having a great time together. I'll miss that terribly.

But I'll still proclaim "Christ is risen!" in my home, and I hope you will, too. We'll share the resurrection story in our online worship. And we'll remember, through all this time of separation, that we are church together in spite of it. We are the body of Christ. And our friends and neighbors, our country and world, need that unity more than ever now.

So as you go about being Christ's body in your community, know that you are needed, you are loved and you are an inheritor of the resurrection promise, through the resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter morning.

Worship with us on Easter morning!
And let your ALLELUIAS ring out!

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Ginn



SUNDAY'S SERMON

Pastor Ginn will be posting a recorded Easter Sunday sermon at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday. It will be posted on Facebook and on our website

www.crossandcrown.org/sermon.

In addition a link will be emailed at noon.

Evolving Worship

Hopefully everyone is adjusting to worship in cyberspace. For the last several weeks, both pastors have been recording their sermons and sharing them with all of us. It has been wonderful to hear and see them every Sunday morning and during

Holy Week. To enhance your worship experience and enable you to more fully participate, we are preparing an abbreviated worship bulletin that you can download and print. It will come on Fridays along with the newsletter. You can then use this to follow along, read the scripture, recite the creed, voice your confession and respond to prayers.

God is here – even in cyberspace!

Janet Foster, Worship & Music Committee Chair



Virtual Offering Plate

Now more than ever we need giving to continue. Each Sunday you'll receive an email titled, "Virtual Offering Plate" with a link to online giving through our website or the number for "text to give". But even if you don't utilize those services, and prefer to mail in your gift or continue your existing online option, this email will serve as a gentle reminder to make sure you are continuing to give.

Ways to Give

- * **Mail:** LeAnne will be coming and checking the mail each day. 300 Pineville Matthews Rd. Matthews, NC 28105
- * **Bank:** Use electronic giving through your bank.
- * **Simply Giving:** LeAnne can email a Simply Giving form to you. (office@crossandcrown.org)
- * **Tithe.ly:** You will find a GIVE option on our website's main menu that opens the Tithe.ly app. Or you can simply text 'GIVE' to 252-881-1050 to make your gift.

Thank you for keeping contributions current while we are apart.

While LeAnne is working from home right now, she can be reached via email at office@crossandcrown.org, or by phone 704-847-5967. **She is also checking the mail each day.**

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with a joyful heart that I share some wonderful news with you. And, aren't we all ready for some wonderful news?

We learned this week that our insurance provider, Utica National, has approved a new roof for our entire building! Our insurance agent and longtime church member, Hugh Klutz, has worked tirelessly to provide the insurance company with the requested information (and then some) to help ensure the best decision was made for the good of the church. The roofing company has been identified, the contract signed, and the shingles selected. Now, we wait for the work to begin.

Thank you all for your patience and prayers as we waited and hoped for this news. God is good, indeed!

On another note, I miss seeing my friends, family, and especially my church family, in person. These times are indeed unprecedented, uncertain, and just plain uncomfortable. It's not easy for any of us, despite the brave face and all the times we say we're doing fine.

Please know that your pastors and your council are working as one team to determine what is the right thing to do for our church, its staff, and our members. The reality is we are learning as we go. Not every decision we make will be the right one but we press on. And, we pray. And, we believe. I often turn to Isaiah 41:10 which says, "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

As the stay home order remains in effect, please do everything you can to stay safe and healthy.

I can't wait to see you back in church celebrating God's goodness, His mercy, and His love.

Debra Cox

Word at Lunch Zooms!



If you've thought in the past about attending the Thursday Word at Lunch Bible study, but couldn't make a noon gathering work with your schedule, now's your chance to try it remotely. We'll be offering Word at Lunch through a Zoom call at noon on Thursdays. Pastors will provide the Sunday readings on the screen, and you can share your ideas and insights just as if we were face to face. We did a trial run with 7 participants this week, and came away blessed. No need to sign up in advance. Make sure you have downloaded Zoom and paste this link into your browser to join next Thursday's gathering, April 16th, at noon: <https://zoom.us/j/256445587>

MARCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Effective April 1st, requests for reimbursements for expenditures over \$100.00 need Congregation Council approval. This measure is temporary and is effective until June 30, 2020.
- Council unanimously approved motion to follow the Bishop and Synod Council's recommendation to suspend "in person" church services and gatherings until May 12.
- Council unanimously approved to investigate refinancing the mortgage.
- Janet Foster will replace Dan Gaugler on council.
- Wayne Renegar will replace David Cox on Audit Committee, as his term has ended.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

- Thank you to Pastor Ginn and Pastor Brook for tirelessly adapting in this time of uncertainty and leading our congregation with online prayers, streaming live Sunday services and reaching out to those in need in our church community.
- The congregation of Cross and Crown for checking on each other via phone calls, texts, emails, as well as praying for each other and this nation.