

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
10AM-4 PM

Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 8 AM

Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 10 AM

10 AM Services Streamed at
facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier

The month of May is upon us. For me, May has always conjured up the notion of the end of the rainy season (April showers), Spring in full bloom (bring May flowers), the school year winding down and summer right around the corner. The month of May also holds the celebrated days of May Day (anyone remember the dances and ribbons of a May pole?), Star Wars Day (May the 4th be with you), Cinco de Mayo (Margarita, anyone?), and Memorial Day (the honoring of those who serve in all branches of the United States military and the unofficial start of Summer). The most special of the days in May for me, however, is Mother's Day.

Celebration of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday." Once a major tradition in Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"

for a special service.

The origins of the US Mother's Day date back to the 19th century. Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia started "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children. These clubs later became a unifying force after the Civil War, when Jarvis organized "Mothers Friendship Day" at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

Others, through the years, contributed to the shaping of what we know as Mother's Day until the official holiday arose in the 1900's as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, who conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices made for their children. Following the success of her first Mother's Day (a church service held as a memorial to her mother), Jarvis was determined to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood. Her persistence paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a measure in 1914 officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

My earliest recollection of Mother's Day is that of picking flowers from my mother's garden and baking the most beautiful pink heart shaped cake that was in my Betty Crocker Boys and Girls Cookbook. My sister and I painstakingly placed red hot candies around the edges of this cake and we still laugh about how it really WAS the most beautiful creation EVER! It's hard to say whether our mother's delight matched ours (or whether we had even cleaned up after our day of baking), but for us it was a memorable Mother's Day. As the years passed and we became more aware of the commercial aspect of this day, I know we exerted more energy on what should be purchased that she would like, than finding that original joy of baking. As a mother myself for many years now, I came to realize early on exactly what my mother had always told us.....that she didn't expect gifts from us, and that she valued the time spent with her (before and after we left home), and that she cherished the bonds we shared as sisters (minus any petty arguing before and after we left home, of course!). Those "gifts" of time and personal interactions from my girls bring me the most joy.

The act of loving (our children and grandchildren, nieces, nephews, Godchildren, fur babies, students, neighborhood kiddos, etc.) unconditionally is in large measure the description of a mother. "Mothering" is a term used to mean "the activity of bringing up a child as a mother" or "relating to or characteristic of a mother, especially in being caring, protective and kind." Outside of the act of childbirth, "mothering" is not gender specific.

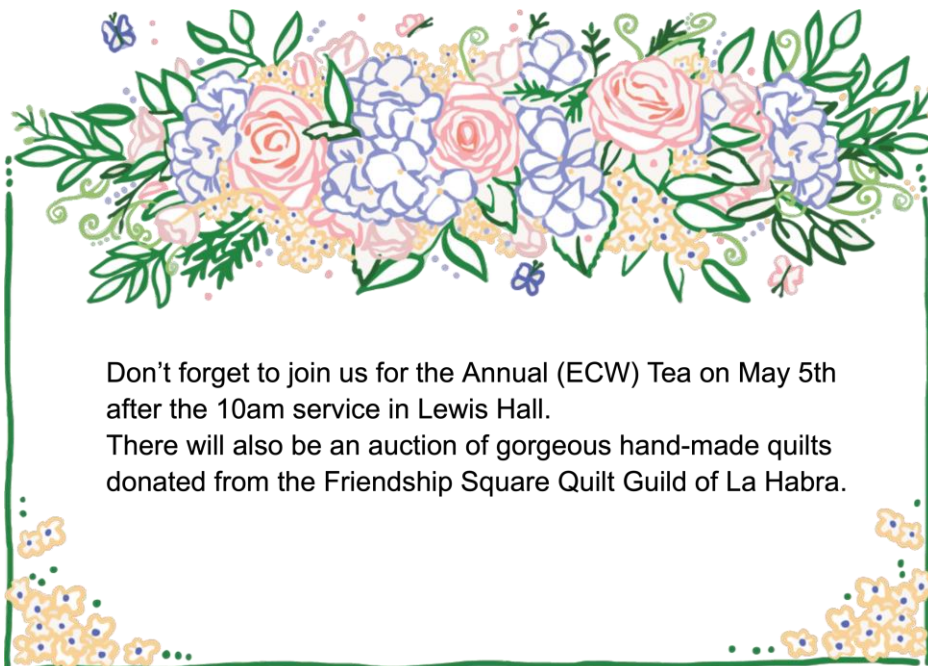
Along those same lines, isn't God's love and compassion always turned toward us, like a good parent? Like a mother, when we cry out to him, even if we've turned away or are struggling, because of this love and compassion, he always responds to the cries of his "children" (us!). God creates, nurtures and loves us like a mother loves her child. Mothers are a gift to the world because they show us what God is like. In a

loving mother, we see Christ, who longs to gather his people like a mother hen would gather her chicks under her wings (Mathew 23:37). Does God ask much from us? Micah listed out three principles of what God asks of his people.....“to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with him”.

On Sunday, May 12th, we have an opportunity to honor and remember our mothers for their gifts of love, compassion, caring, and teaching as we grew. What will that look like? Many of us will be acknowledged and honored. What will that look like? Love is not conditional on a gift. Who does that sound like?

Happy Mother’s Day!

By Mandy Knight



God's Sacred Book of Nature

By Richard Rohr

Richard Rohr believes that nature has been revealing God long before the Bible and Church came to be:

Nature itself is the primary Bible. The world is the locus of the sacred and provides all the metaphors that the soul needs for its growth.

If you scale chronological history down to the span of one year, with the Big Bang on January 1, then our species, *Homo sapiens*, doesn't appear until 11:59 p.m. on December 31. That means our written Bible and the Church appeared in the last nanosecond of December 31. I can't believe that God had nothing to say until the last moment. Rather, as both Paul and Thomas Aquinas say, God has been revealing God's love, goodness, and beauty since the very beginning through the natural world of creation (see Romans 1:20). "God looked at everything God had made and found it very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Acknowledging the intrinsic value and beauty of creation, elements, plants, and animals is a major paradigm shift for most Western and cultural Christians. We limited God's love and salvation to our own human species, and even then, we did not have enough love to go around for *all* of humanity! God ended up looking quite miserly and inept, to be honest.

Read, instead, the Book of Wisdom:

How dull are all people who, from the things-that-are, have not been able to discover God-Who-Is, or by studying the good works have failed to recognize the Artist.... Through the grandeur and beauty of the creatures we may, by analogy, contemplate their Author (13:1, 5). [1]

Author Barbara Mahany reads God's sacred Book of Nature in her own backyard and throughout creation:

I read intently the Book of Nature, even here in my humble plot of earth ... where a rambunctious tucked-away garden offers me respite and a place for genuflection....

Into its pages I step in the murky hour just before the dawn, before the rising sun stages its rehearsal, bleeds pink into the edge of night. It's where you might find me, nose pressed to the glass, when the softening winter sky at last exhales and the first tumble of snowflakes fall, blanketing the world in a quiet like no other. Or, at twilight, the in-between hour when day dissolves into darkness, when on a summer's eve I surrender to the rising surround sound of crickets and keep watch till the starkeepers trot out the stars....

And so the beautiful, the majestic, the intimate, and the sweeping is pressed onto the pages of the Book of Nature. [2]

Mahany shares this observation from Evelyn Underhill (1875–1941), an English theologian and mystic:

The very meaning of Creation is seen to be an act of worship, a devoted proclamation of the splendour, the wonder, and the beauty of God. In this great *Sanctus*, all things justify their being and have their place. [3]

[1] Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Essential Teachings on Love*, selected by Joelle Chase and Judy Traeger (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018), 30-31.

[2] Barbara Mahany, *The Book of Nature: The Astonishing Beauty of God's First Sacred Text* (Minneapolis, MN: Broadleaf Books, 2023), 15, 16.

[3] Evelyn Underhill, *Worship* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1937), 5. Quoted in Mahany, *Book of Nature*, 18.



St. Elizabeth Guild: Date change! So that Our Time and St. Elizabeth Guild don't fall on the same week in the month of May, Diana and the ladies of the Guild have decided to meet on the 23rd of May, just for this month.

~~Make sure to update your calendars~~

Recipe Corner. Now for something sweet. I asked for simplicity this time!

Blueberry Cream Cheese Dump Cake

INGREDIENTS

- 2 (16 oz.) can blueberry pie filling (any kind of pie filling will work)
- 1 (15 oz.) package yellow cake mix
- 8 oz. cream cheese, cubed
- 1 cup (2 stick) unsalted butter, thinly sliced


PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350° F and lightly grease a (13x9) baking dish with butter or non-stick spray.
2. Pour pie filling into the bottom of greased baking dish, making sure to spread it into the corners.
3. Top with cubed cream cheese evenly on top, then sprinkle cake mix on top.
4. Take butter pats (as thinly sliced as possible) and place them in a single layer on top of the cake mix, trying to cover as much of the surface of the cake as possible.
5. Place baking dish in oven and bake for 35-40 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
6. Remove from oven and let cool 15-20 minutes before serving.

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??


According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

A. 9 a.m.
B. Noon
C. 3:30 p.m.
D. 9 p.m.



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15)





PUZZLE

Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. H E A V [] []

2. [] A B L E []

3. [] A Y O F P E N T E C O S []

4. [] O N G U E []

5. [] P I R I []


6. [] O G E T H E []

7. [] E S []

8. [] O N G U E []

9. [] A []

10. [] I N D []



“When the _____³ came, they were all _____⁶ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____¹⁰ came from _____¹ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____⁹ what seemed to be _____⁴ of fire that separated and came to _____⁷ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____⁵ and began to speak in other _____⁸ as the Spirit _____² them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

MAY SERVICES, EVENTS, & SMALL GROUPS

SUNDAYS AT 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (in-person only)

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (in-person and streaming live at
facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier)

BIBLE STUDY/MORNING PRAYER: Wednesdays 10am, Chapel

MEN EATING BADLY: Saturday, May 4th, 8:00 a.m. Greenleaf Café. Contact Tim Adams.

OUR TIME: Tuesday, May 14th, 2p.m. Contact Mary Jean Christian.

VESTRY MEETING: Tuesday May 14th, 7:00 p.m. Chapel.

STITCHERY GROUP: Saturday, May 18th, 9:00 a.m. Chapel. Contact Ellen Mykkanen.

ST. ELIZABETH GUILD: Thursday, May 23rd, Noon, Chapel. Contact Diana Jimenez.

BIBLIOPHILE: Tuesday, May 21st, 6:30 p.m.. On Zoom, Contact Fred Adams.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) Saturday, May 25th, 10a.m. Chase Room.

(ECW) Annual Tea: Sunday May 5th, After 10am Service. Lewis Hall

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday Worship at St. Matthias: April 2024

May 5 Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

May 12 Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

May 19 Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104:25-35, 37, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 26 Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

We look forward to offering our worship services on more than one platform for streaming in the near future. We are awaiting new equipment that will allow us to do so. So please be patient and stay with us till that happens.

MAY 2024

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