



# *The Messenger*

## *March 2026*

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
P. O. Box 1028  
400 Highland Avenue  
Coos Bay, OR 97420

### **Rector Reflection**

I was recently asked during coffee hour what Holy Week is all about?

What a great question!! I felt a flush of enthusiasm as I explained that it is simply a liturgical meditation/reenactment of the last week of Jesus' life from his arrival into Jerusalem all the way through to his resurrection from death. It is one story, divided into several liturgies. Holy Week and Easter are the pinnacle of the story of Jesus' life. For all his healings, teachings, reconciliations, miracles and conversations Jesus is literally 'sold out' by one of his disciples for a mere 30 pieces of silver to be arrested and crucified to silence him. We hear the stories of that last week and reenact their drama in the liturgical rites. We enter the story as if we are the disciples with Jesus. It is powerful, heart wrenching, and humbling as Jesus is not just any human. He is the Word of God made flesh to live our life and in doing so show us the way to what really is life, namely, life lived in God and for God. The ultimate promise is that Jesus was raised from death and we can as well by placing our faith and trust in God.



### **Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday-** Liturgy begins outside (ideally) and we walk into the building singing the praise of Christ. The tide then turns as we hear the entire Passion narrative and Jesus is killed. Even so, we receive the eucharist, the promise and hope of God.

**Maundy Thursday-** the Liturgy recounts the last supper and the washing of the disciples' feet and Jesus' teaching on love and servanthood. Eucharist the paraments (colored dressings of the pulpit, lectern, altar etc. are all methodically and slowly taken away. The ambry where the consecrated host usually is placed is left open and empty. The sanctuary lamp is put out. The veils are changed to black. Following the service is an overnight prayer vigil to "keep awake for one hour with Jesus" as he left that meal and went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

**Good Friday-** Jesus' Passion is read again. The liturgy is very solemn. There is no eucharist. Jesus is in the tomb.

**Holy Saturday-** On the night before Easter the church celebrates a Vigil for Easter. (This year it will again be hosted by St. Mary's in Gardiner) It begins with lighting a fire, like the fire of creation. The Pascal candle is lit and will remain lit for every service for 50 days until Pentecost) The Exultet is sung. (Personally, my favorite part of the Liturgy) It is a song glorifying God's conquering of sin and death and opening the way for all people to be recreated in Christ by the forgiveness of sin and have the hope of heaven with God forever as a gift of God's love. The service can have up to 9 readings followed by songs and collect prayers. But usually, we have many less than 9. With the proclamation of the Gospel story of Jesus' resurrection, the lights come on, noise is made, a song is sung, candles are lit. There can be baptisms/confirmations at the Vigil. And most certainly there is the eucharist.

**On Easter Morning** we again will have a sunrise service.... Although as of writing this reflection we are not sure of the location this year. Stay Tuned! Also, Easter Morning Emmanuel will have a grand and glorious liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes with Baptisms, and as is the custom at Emmanuel an Easter Brunch following the service.

Consider attending all the services of Holy Week. You won't regret it. They are a powerful way of entering into the story of God's great gift to us, resurrection to eternal life and the conviction that when we die our life in God goes on forever.

See you in Church! *Patti+*



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday @ 9:00am at Emmanuel

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday @ 7:00pm at Emmanuel  
Overnight Prayer Vigil to stay awake one hour with the Lord. Sign-up in the church entryway.

Friday, April 3: Ecumenical Service @ 12pm at TBD  
Friday, April 3: Good Friday @ 7pm at Emmanuel

Saturday, April 4: Holy Eucharist @ 5pm at St. Mary in Gardiner

Sunday, April 5: Ecumenical Sunrise Service @ 6:30am at TBD  
Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunday @ 9:00am at Emmanuel with an extended coffee hour following service.



### **In Memory of Pastor Gene Jennings**

We invite the ladies to wear their best Easter hats or bonnets in memory of Pastor Gene on Easter Sunday.

### **Easter Memorials**

Memorial gifts for Easter lilies can be arranged through the parish office. If you would like to make an offering toward Easter lilies, please drop it off at the office, mail it in or place in the offering plate, noting who it is in memory or honor of **by Tuesday, March 31**. Suggested donation amount is \$15.00.



### **Coos Food Cupboard**

For the month of March, the Coos Food Cupboard would appreciate donations of canned meals such as pork and beans, spaghetti, chili, and stews. Toilet paper is another often-requested item that cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits by our guests. It is an item our guests are very grateful to receive.

Please also consider a monetary donation to the Coos Food Cupboard. Checks should be made out to "Coos Food Cupboard". Checks can be dropped off in the parish office or mailed to P.O. Box 1028, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

Thank you as always for your generosity and support of the Coos Food Cupboard!

*Brian Sullivan*, CFC Board Member





### **Meet Your Vestry – Xandra McKeown**

Emmanuel Episcopal and the faith community we all share is an important part of my, and my husband's, life. As a lifelong Episcopalian, I was baptized in Richland, Oregon and confirmed in Pendleton. When I married, I joined a family that has worshiped at Emmanuel for four generations. I guess that is to say the roots are deep! I am deeply grateful for the wonderful parishioners that gather to worship and the spirit and love extended by Rev. Hale. Everyone brings their gifts, talent, and friendship without hesitation. I see the role of the Vestry as a significant support to Rev. Hale in various

matters and decisions that come before the parish, and an additional avenue available to our parishioners for outreach on issues of interest.

To continue to be seen in the community as a welcoming house of worship and involved in various aspects of important community life. Emmanuel is blessed to have solid financial strength due to the generosity of past and current parishioners, which is so important to extend into the future. Continuing to serve our current community and embracing newcomers with the spirit of friendship and welcome through a lovely music program, worship, and services to support youth and families is my hope for the future.

My professional background is heavily weighted towards finance, people development and non-profit engagement. Those experiences and skills, coupled with a love for and gratitude of our Emmanuel community, are values that I will strive to offer.

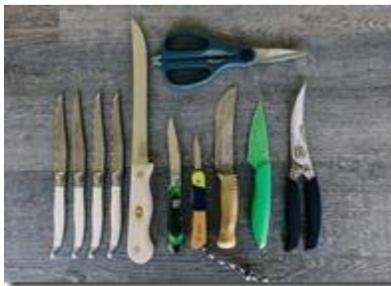
### **Joy at Emmanuel**

Joy: To experience great pleasure or delight; gladden. (Webster's)

We don't often consider "joy" during Lent. However, there is a lot of joy at Emmanuel. The music and choirs bring me joy (even when it is more solemn music). Being with my 'Emmanuel family' brings me joy – getting to see folks and sometimes chat with them. Feeling the connectedness of all the people doing their part to make the Sunday Service and services to others flow, that brings me joy. Thinking of all the ways we at Emmanuel touch the lives of others, that too is joyful. At this time of Lent, in our unsettling world, may joy be in our hearts.

"I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart....What joy do you find at Emmanuel?

ReJOYce, (Rejoice)



### **Knife/Scissor Sharpening Event! Sunday, March 15, after the 9:00 AM service**

Cary Pugh will be available to sharpen knives/scissors or other cutting items – like garden shears. This is a fundraiser for the Rector's Discretionary Fund – donations for sharpening accepted. If you are unable to make it on March 15, you can leave your items in the church office for drop-off and/or pickup. Please have items dropped off before Friday, March 13.

Thanks for supporting Emmanuel! *Nancylee Stewart*, Sr. Warden



**A Message from the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon**

Bishop Akiyama had a joyful visitation this past Sunday with the wonderful community at Emmanuel Church in Coos Bay.

Together, they celebrated the sacrament of Holy Baptism, welcomed new members through Confirmation and Reception, and gave thanks for the continued work of the Holy Spirit in their midst. It was a beautiful day of renewal, commitment, and shared faith.

Please join us in praying for all who were baptized, confirmed, and received, and for the people of Emmanuel as they continue to live out the Gospel in their community.



**Special Days in March**

- Virginia O’Neal Birthday - March 9
- Cullen Cribbins Birthday - March 10
- Darleen Atkinson Birthday - March 11
- Kellen Cahill Birthday - March 20
- Rodney Eure Birthday – March 27
- John Powell Birthday - March 28
- Judy Jensen Birthday - March 29
- Megan Chaney Bingham Birthday - March 30

If you don’t see your name(s) on the birthday and anniversaries list, please let Kerri in the office know so we can add you to our parish list. *Thank you!*

**\*\*April Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Friday, March 20th\*\***