

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
5101 Oak Park Road
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 787-4790
office@saintgiles.org

April 15, 2020

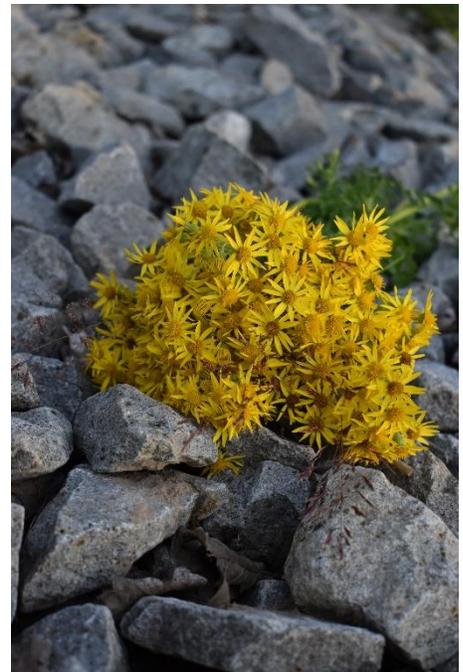
Friends,

As I prepared for worship on Easter, I reviewed the last few Easters - the bulletins, the music, the sermons - to remember where we've been as a way to illuminate where we are and visualize where we might be going.

In 2019, we were "in the rubble" following the fire at Notre Dame and the natural gas explosion in Durham. Rubble that required search and rescue, necessitated structural review and demanded detailed investigation. Rubble that impacted the environment. Rubble that upended the local economy. An emotional rubble characterized by grief, anger, tragic memory and unpredictable futures. A spiritual rubble defined by deep-seeded questions and a long list of unanswerable queries.

I encouraged our community to look forward to "from the rubble" - the time of rebuilding, restoration and reconnection - and to remember that what comes "from the rubble" will always be new, different, surprising. I urged us to trust God who is at work in the rubble - who is at work in our rubble - rebuilding, restoring and reconnecting: doing the work of making all things new.

In 2018, we engaged Mark's account of the resurrection - the account in which the women leave the tomb and say nothing to anyone because they are afraid, astonished, silenced by this unexpected, extraordinary encounter. They are laboring with something they do not understand. They are wrestling with something they cannot explain. They are struggling to find words. And, just like those who witnessed burning bushes and parting seas, just like those who witnessed transfiguration, just like so many who encounter the Divine in unexpected ways, they are stunned into silence. Stunned into silence because this being raised doesn't make sense.



I encouraged our community to remember we too can be taken-aback, silenced by the unexpected, trapped in the unknown. We too can experience the dis-ease of spinning heads and unsettled spirits. These are normal responses. And in time, though rarely as quickly as we wish, our heads will slow and our spirits will find relief. What matters most is being authentic - real - with what we are experiencing; being present with one another as God is present with us.

2020 is its own year. It has its own rubble: physical, emotional, spiritual and viral; rubble that has left us afraid and astonished, silenced and secluded. It has its own rubble: leaving some of us speechless, others with spinning heads and unsettled spirits.

But the encouragement is the same. So let us trust God who is at work in the rubble - who is at work in our rubble - rebuilding, restoring and reconnecting: doing the work of making all things new. And may we be authentic - real - with ourselves and with one another. May we sense God's abiding presence: we are not alone.

Continuing prayers for you, for yours and for our world,

Katherine

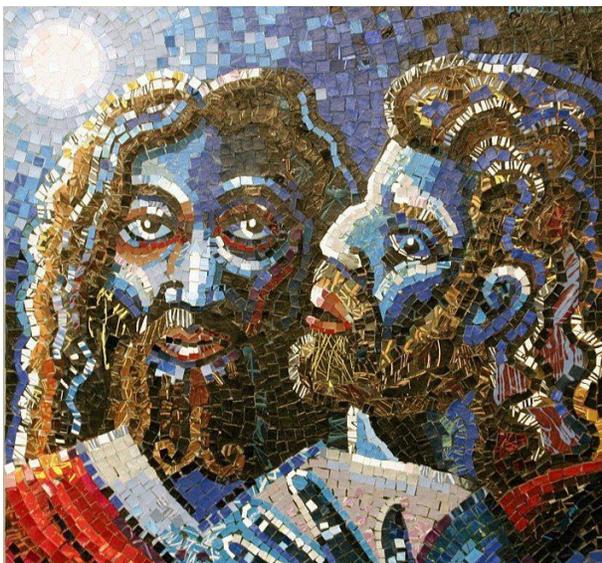
*Image Credit: Photo by Emma on Unsplash

If you need assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).

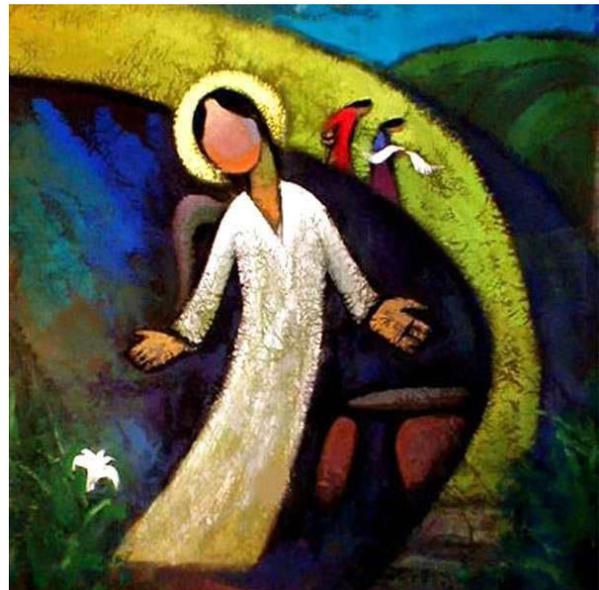
If you are able to offer assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).

Images of Holy Week:

JUDAS KISS by James Kuhn



HE IS NOT HERE by He Qi



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends

Pat Lindsay, Rachel Williams, Sandra Richbourg, **Charolette Brown**, Libby Morton, Dan Grassi, Dick Grassi, **Paula Hagler**, Dave Smith, Carol Pope, Aleta Wheeler, Marie Minani, Inez Ruchte, Andrew Scharfe, **Peggie Bell, Jeane Nagel, Peggy McNeill**

- **Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet**
- Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna
- Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy
- Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill
- Teresa Johnson's cousin, Kaitlyn
- Charolette Brown's friend, Jaqueline
- Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Fran
- Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene
- Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, & friend Ann Weber
- Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces **Colleen**, & Sourour Dehnadi, **brother Ken**, & friend Paul Hutter & family
- Dave & Rita Hart's friends Max, Terry, neighbor Mary & her family
- Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman
- Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey
- Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family
- Jo Lourens' father Flip Viviers
- Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family
- Lisa, coworker of Koreen Thomasson, & Lisa's husband Ed
- Sara Monazah's grandmother Zary
- Carol Pope's brother, David
- Kathy & Bob Wolinski's daughter, Amy
- John Lavender's brother Don Allen Lavender, & John & Susie's niece's husband Ben Cooper
- Joe Moody's sister Mary Lynn
- Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia
- Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters
- Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner
- Frank Boyd, following a second surgery for a detached retina
- The Tatum-Carter family, following the death of their friend Matthew
- Chris Maxwell's sister Cecile
- John, Carin and Elizabeth Iager following the death of John's sister Cindy, who died on Saturday, March 28 following a fight with COVID-19
- **Family and friends of Ray Kressman, following his death on Friday, March, 27th**
- **Don & Shirley Sprinkle's family member Whitney Huskey, following COVID-19 diagnosis, and Whitney's daughter as her mother undergoes treatment**
- **Nicole Goolsby's mother Lyn's friend Bob Albert**

*requests in bold have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.

An Update from the Saint Giles Session:

The Saint Giles Session has passed a motion to abide by the orders made by Wake County per campus and meeting closings and safety; and that when such orders are lifted, the Saint Giles Session will revisit decisions related to worship and on-campus activities.

Secondly, in late March, Congress passed the CARES Act. The Act included a provision allowing for churches to obtain a loan through their bank to cover payroll and payroll related costs for two and a half months. If churches continue to employ their personnel, the loan becomes a grant and does not need to be repaid.

On March 31st, the Saint Giles Session approved a motion to have Treasurer Dave Gospodarek, Finance Ministry Elder Liaison Scott Vollmer, and Clerk of Session Elizabeth Abernathy complete a Corporate Resolution, allowing Saint Giles to apply for funding through the act.

This is a significant support, allowing Saint Giles to continue to care for our employees during this time, at no net cost to the church.

THANK YOU



There are many individuals and groups who have been keeping both Saint Giles and our larger community running, and they all deserve our thanks.

Special thanks to:

- Dave Gospodarek, Treasurer, for being up-to-speed and getting us ahead-of-the-curve re the CARES ACT
- Our finance team - everyone involved in counting, depositing, being sure we are receiving checks and memorials, and for supporting our staff team financially
- Our property team for keeping up with the consistent needs of our facility and campus grounds
- Our team of folks making phone calls, responding to needs and ensuring our community stays connected
- Our entire faith community - for words of encouragement and care, for continuing generosity, for saying "yes" when we ask for help
- And thank you to all those who pray for Saint Giles, its members, friends, and staff.

Easter at Saint Giles – a look into the past

We received some lovely photographs from years past during the annual Saint Giles Easter Egg Hunt! Thank you Rita Hart for supplying these.

Take a look – and if your family had an Easter Egg Hunt this year, please send your photographs to office@saintgiles.org.

