

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee

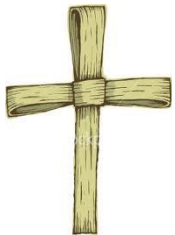


April 5, 2020

Called to embody God's love by welcoming everyone who enters
and by empowering all who stay to make a difference in the world.

Worship Notes from Caroline+

During our Vestry Meeting last Monday several of us spoke of our pervasive sense of grief and disorientation during this period of isolation and uncertainty. Much of my personal grief relates to not being able to preside at The Holy Eucharist, which is so central to my priestly vocation and to our corporate identity as members of Christ' Church.



We at St. David's are preparing to resume worship in an unfamiliar setting—cyberspace. At 11 am this Sunday, April 5th, Palm Sunday, the experiment begins. The format will be familiar: the Liturgy of the Word from St. David's Sunday Worship booklet, including the multi-voiced narrative of the Passion of Our Lord. I am heartened by the enthusiasm and excitement of all of you who are helping make this happen.

Yet in the back of my mind a doubt has persisted. How can Sunday worship be full and complete when The Holy Communion is not part of it? In the way God has of sending the right message at the perfect time, the reassurance I was seeking arrived this week from the *Episcopal New Service* and +Michael Curry. Here is an excerpt from "**A Word to the Church on Our Theology of Worship from the Presiding Bishop**":

"Our theology is generous in its assurance of Christ's presence in all our times of need. In a rubric in the service for *Ministration to the Sick* (p. 457), *The Book of Common Prayer* clearly expresses the conviction that even if a person is prevented from physically receiving the Sacrament for reasons of extreme illness or disability, the desire for Christ's presence alone is enough for all the benefits of the Sacrament to be received."



So, as we gather for worship in this novel and unexpected environment, rest assured. God **will** be worshipped. We **will** receive in our hearts the real presence of Christ Our Living Lord.

In Christ's Love and Service,
Caroline+

Note: You can view the Presiding Bishop's message in its entirety [here](#)

Follow this link to view or
download the
[Palm Sunday Service Materials](#)

Check out the freshened-up look of the [St. David's website](#)

[Sermon Link](#)

[George Rector's Prayer Collection for Discernment](#)

Palm Sunday

We plan to use an online meeting program called Zoom to allow everyone to participate in services beginning on Palm Sunday. Here are three quick steps to help get ready to “come to church”

1. Zoom will download automatically when you join your first meeting which you do by clicking on the link in an email you will have received. You can also download it here (<https://zoom.us/download>) beforehand; it should only take a few seconds.
2. A few minutes before church (the “meeting”) is scheduled to begin, click on the link you received in an email message or saw on Facebook. If you didn’t download the Zoom app in step 1, follow the series of prompts in several screens which will open automatically.
3. Sit back and enjoy the service knowing that you are connected in real time to the St. David’s community. We will also post a link on the St. David’s webpage.



Note: With the exception of Caroline, we will start with everyone’s video turned off and audio muted in order to avoid confusing screen switching and extraneous noise. We ask that you not change either of these settings unless asked to do so.

Call Steve (828.507.8816) if you have questions.

An Update, with Good News, from the Discernment Committee

By Harry Brown

In these troubling and anxiety-provoking times, it’s nice to have some good news. I will get to that in a minute. But first, I would like to give you a brief overview of the work of the Discernment Committee to date.

The Discernment Committee was chosen by the Vestry about a year ago and got to work last May. The members are Maggie Bowles, Harry Brown, Vance Davidson, Marilyn Jody, George Rector, and Margot Wilcox. The committee has met more than 30 times over the past ten months. Why so many meetings, one might ask? This was not a Search Committee, but rather a Discernment Committee. The task was to discern where the Spirit was leading St. David’s and therefore what sort of person was needed to be our next rector.

The committee’s work was informed by the parish in part through two tools: the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey, and Holy Conversations. The work was also informed by many private conversations with members, and the committee is very grateful for all the input received from the members of St. David’s. After gathering information, a Parish Profile was crafted and put on the website. Another document, the OTM Portfolio, was drafted for the Office of Transitional Ministry website. This website is the primary source for priests looking for places to serve in the Episcopal Church. After much work, our job announcement went out in mid-November for a six-week period.

In early January the Discernment Committee started the work of sifting through applications. Between January 14th and March 4th, we narrowed our search down to four applicants and interviewed them by videoconference and in person.

And now for the good news. On Thursday, March 26th, the Discernment Committee met with the Vestry to present the finalist candidate. The meeting took place virtually by Zoom (what a world in which we find ourselves in 2020!). The Discernment Committee felt unanimously that this candidate would be a very good fit for St. David’s and has all of the qualities that we as a congregation are looking for in our next rector. After the presentation, the Vestry felt the same. Over the coming weeks the Vestry will be meeting (in some way) with the candidate. Stay tuned; there will be more news soon.

Vestry News

by Jessica Philyaw, Senior Warden:

The vestry has been meeting weekly via Zoom, as frequent communication is all the more important when we are not able to be together on a weekly basis. We are exploring ways to worship together in this new environment and also how to serve each other and the wider community. The “Dial-Arounds” have brought a phone call or email to each of you (we hope!) from a vestry member, on a rotating basis, so we can share at least a few minutes of fellowship, and share how we’re doing. The new roof project is progressing, with the new cross already received (it’s beautiful!), and the roofing contractor due to start in the next couple of weeks. If you haven’t checked our website lately (www.stdavidscullohee.org), go take a look—it is becoming a go-to source of information of all kinds. And you may notice church emails now being sent to you from our parish administrator, Carol Payton.

Stewardship

Just a reminder during our time away from the physical space of the church that you can send your pledges by mail to St. David’s, P.O. Box 152, Cullowhee, NC 28723, or set up an automatic bill-pay with your bank.

Palms for Palm Sunday

Palms that have been blessed for the occasion will be available outside the church on Sunday morning—some in the planter near the road, and more outside the front door of the church. Please come anytime Sunday morning to take a frond home to have with you for our online service. In keeping with liturgical recommendations surrounding the proper disposal of palms, we ask that you save what you take until we can come together again for an in-person service, at which point we will use them in a celebration.

Rector Search

As you can tell by reading Harry’s update on the Discernment Committee’s activities, our search for a new rector is moving forward. The vestry is delighted by the work done by the DC and the Holy Spirit thus far in the search process, and we are eagerly making plans for the next step of talking with the candidate ourselves. As Harry says, stay tuned...

From the Diocese

Make a joyful noise, for He is risen!

Please join us in celebrating Easter Sunday social distancing style by making a joyful noise together! On April 12th at 10 am, make a joyful noise from wherever you are, with whatever you have available. Need some inspiration? Check out this [video](#) created with participants from around the diocese and beyond!

During this time, even if we cannot physically be together, we are reminded that the church is so much more than just a building. God calls on us to proclaim the good news, so let us share in celebration by letting the land ring by sounds of Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Please share this post far and wide, so together we can send out sound waves of hope in our communities and around the world. Share with your friends, your coworkers, your church community, as a reminder that even in the darkest times love conquers all!

If willing, please share videos of your joyful noise on Easter Sunday so that we may compile them to share in community. Hashtag your photos with [#joyfulnoisediownc](#) or send them to our [Communications Officer](#) to share.

Christ is Risen. *Alleluia!*

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin

Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina



Savannah Bennett

By Joan Byrd

In January 2019 Savannah Bennett began sharing the role of organist at St. David's. "I love playing for the church," she says. However, having "never done anything like this before," she confesses that she found the responsibility intimidating at first. She grew up in the Church of Christ in Lincolnton, where hymns are sung a cappella; a pianist, she had never played the organ before. Fortunately, she has found that her knowledge of piano "translates easily to the organ at St. David's." The parish quickly became special to her because, she explains, in addition to being welcoming and friendly, "everyone is very kind and forgiving."

Savannah's "sister and best friend," Gracie, is three years to the day younger than she is. Both of them have grown up playing musical instruments. Savannah began studying piano at the age of eight. In fall 2016 she came to Cullowhee to pursue her career in music at the university that is the alma mater of both her parents. Savannah entered Western as a member of the honors college, majoring in music performance. After her freshman year, the School of Music awarded her the Barbara Dooley Piano Scholarship, an honor she continues to hold.

Her interest in performance is not limited to the piano. In middle school, Savannah played percussion in the concert and marching bands, and she has pursued her interest in both piano and percussion ever since. When she joined the university's 600-member marching band as a freshman, it became central to her life: she remarks happily, "It's how I met all my friends." Playing the marimba and the vibraphone, Savannah has been positioned in the band's front ensemble. She has taken a trip with the band every year and has performed with "The Pride of the Mountains" when it has been featured in several competitions.

Savannah's interests are broad. She enjoys academic research and writing and has taken part in undergraduate research conferences on both the regional and national levels. Brian Railsback of our parish was her mentor when she presented a paper on Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" last year, and before the Covid-19 outbreak she was scheduled to travel to Montana State University this spring to give two presentations, one of which was on Jackson County folk and country singer Samantha Bumgarner. As Student Research Assistant at the Fine Art Museum this year, she focused on the *Das Rheingold* suite of vitreographs by Thomas Buechner that is part of the museum collection. Savannah is influenced by the crafts tradition of the mountains and is especially drawn to the fiber arts. She knits scarves and hats and weaves on what she calls a "beginner's loom." She hopes to have a big loom one day.

Her love of this region, heightened by the experience of hiking parts of the Appalachian Trail, has determined the direction she will follow after graduation. This fall she will attend East Tennessee State University as a graduate assistant in the two-year program leading to the Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies. Although the music is closest to her heart, she underscores that she is fascinated by all aspects of Appalachian culture and heritage. After completing her master's degree, she hopes to be offered an internship at a museum or historical site "anywhere in the Appalachians, from Georgia to New York."

The members of St. David's parish looked forward to attending Savannah's senior piano recital this spring. We regret that with the cancellation of events on campus in response to the corona virus we will not have this opportunity to celebrate her gifts as a musician and express our warm appreciation for her contributions to our church. But Savannah's music is now woven into our history, and she will always have a home at St. David's.



A side note: Both Savannah's parents were students of Joan Byrd in the early 1990s.

Here is a photo of the face jug Tim made in her class way back when.



Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

Apr 1 **Eric Neff**
 Apr 2 **Betsy Swift**
 Apr 4 **Tyler Kinnear**
 Apr 8 **Lisa Annis**
 Apr 9 **Barbara Hardie**
 Apr 11 **June Smith, Daniel Brown,
 Abel Despeaux**

Anniversary

Apr 11 **Rosa & Mike Reily**

Masks Matter

Melba Cooper wanted to share this [video](#) that she found helpful in understanding the Corona virus threat.

Remember the Animals

In these uncertain times, families are at risk of being forced to surrender their pets, challenging the organizations that help care for them. [Advocates for Animals in Jackson County](#) is a 501c3 organization created for the health and welfare of companion animals and the people who love them in our community. Contact them to volunteer or donate if you feel you can.

Thank You from the Browns

We would like to thank everyone for the concern expressed and prayers said on their behalf while travelling. When we left home on March 6th, things were still fairly quiet. How quickly that changed! We did enjoy a few days in Chile before we were supposed to leave on a cruise from Chile to Florida on March 14th. On March 13th the cruise was cancelled. In light of how quickly the world changed over the next few days, that was fortunate. We were able to get on a flight back to the US, and arrived home on March 17th. Due to our extensive travel (we passed through 8 different airports on our journey), we self-quarantined for 14 days after we got back. We are both well. We pray that everyone at St. David's is also well. We just wanted everyone to know that we are fine.

Harry and Karen Brown

Virtual Closet

If you need medical-related equipment or have something you can offer, contact [Nancie Wilson](#). She keeps a list of who has what to facilitate sharing.

Box Tops for Education

There is a basket under the white board in the Parish Hall where you can place any of these box tops you may have. This is an ongoing project for our children.

Regular Activities <small>During normal times</small>	2 nd Sundays	Rice & Beans Ministry
	Last Sundays 5-7 pm Sept-Apr	Soup/Bread Community Supper
	Mondays 10:30 am	Cullowhee Men's Group 10:30 am
	2 nd Mondays	Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am

St. David's Vestry

Jessica Philyaw, Sr. Warden Sandy Frazier, Jr. Warden
 Gael Graham Vance Davidson
 Jake Jacobson Doug Hanks
 Steve Steinbrueck, Treasurer, is ex-officio to the vestry.

2019 Outreach Support

From 1st Sunday's loose plate offering and Soup Suppers

Jan	Circles of Hope	Aug	School Supplies drive
Feb	Clean Slate	Sep	Vecinos
Mar	Community Table	Oct	Midwives of Haiti
Apr	Mainspring Conservation Trust	Nov	to be determined
May	(general)	Dec	(general)
May-Jun-Jul-Aug-no Soup Suppers (general outreach)			

Vestry Stewardship Covenant 2019

St. David's Episcopal Church

We believe that God loves us unconditionally and desires that we love one another without exception; that God wants us to use the gifts we've been given including the gifts of listening, discerning, and doing. We trust in God's abundance and can respond in generosity and love by serving our community and creation in ways we never thought possible.

We commit to fostering a broad vision of stewardship as encompassing our physical church, our congregation, the community that surrounds us, and all of creation.

We invite the St. David's family to explore how we can embody God's love and promise of abundance in our process, practice, and reflection.

St. David's Links and Contact Information:

Website: stdavidscullowhee.org

[Lectionary Page 2020](#)

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stdavidscullowhee@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 152, Cullowhee, NC 28723

Diocesan Links:

[Diocese of Western North Carolina](#)

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

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www.lakelogan.org