

The Messenger

Lent, Holy Week, Eastertide - 2025

The Church of the Messiah

114 North Third Street at Madison

Pulaski, Tennessee 38478

The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop

*The mission of the Church of the Messiah is to be a growing witness of
our Faith in Jesus Christ in the midst of the community
through worship and sacrament in the Episcopal tradition.*

Our leadership:

- ✘ The Rev. Justin L. Taliaferro, Priest-in-Charge
- ✘ Pat Woolard, Organist/Choirmaster
- ✘ Secretary to the Parish, Marquenda Forrester
- ✘ Treasurer, Kristi Watson
- ✘ Senior Warden, Andy Hoover ('25)
- ✘ Junior Warden, Robert Gobble ('27)
- ✘ Clerk of the Vestry, Cynthia Low ('25)
- ✘ Vestry members: David Bell ('25), Kathleen Lamb ('26), Daniel Roberts ('26), Clay Yost ('27)

A message from the Rev. Justin Taliaferro

Greetings, Church of the Messiah family!

The liturgical seasons have turned, again. We have now entered the forty-day season of Lent, which lasts from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. This was historically the period of preparation for baptism, which would often take place on Easter. Eventually, Lent became a time of self-examination, repentance, and special devotion for all Christians as a way of preparing for the celebrations of the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

The Greek word *metanoia* is often translated as “repentance.” It literally means to change one’s mind, or to turn in a new direction. And I think that one of the most effective ways for us to “change our minds,” is by repeated, small actions. The forming of habits that that can help us to orient ourselves towards God.

This Lent, I would encourage us all to re-dedicate ourselves to habits that are focused on things like prayer, worship, and service. Start small. Pray as you can. But not only when you can. Consider committing to daily prayer. The Daily Office is a great way to do this, and has been the pattern of the church for centuries. But even if it’s just for five minutes, I encourage you to set aside some time each day, to intentionally enter into God’s presence, and simply open up your heart and mind to God.

Fasting is another long-standing Lenten practice. Fasting is a way of praying with our bodies. It is a way opening up a space in our lives for God to fill. And fasting can take many forms. It can involve abstaining from an occasional meal or certain types of food. It could also involve taking a break from things like social media, unnecessary spending, or our screens. You could even pick a different fast each week. If you do take up a fast, I encourage you to start small and simple, but be consistent. And if you find that you fail at your chosen fast, that’s ok. Simply turn again, and begin again. That’s when the real benefit sometimes begins. And let us always keep our fasting connected with our prayer.

Or you could consider re-committing to our corporate life of worship. This can be a vital way to connect your Lenten journey with others in our parish family, so that we can all be strengthened and encouraged. Simple acts of service are another great habit to form during Lent. Each week, or each day, you could choose one small act of service for another person.

Regardless of how we choose to observe this season, let us remember that Lent is not about earning God's favor. Jesus has already done that for us. And Lent isn't some kind of spiritualized version of New Years resolutions, where we launch into a 40-day program of self-improvement. It's not about anything that we can do for ourselves.

Lent is a time, and a way, for us to be mindful and intentional. To be honest with ourselves, and with God. It is about opening up more space in our lives, to offer ourselves to God, and to receive God's grace.

Peace,

Fr. Justin Taliaferro

Lenten Soup Supper and Study Series

This year during Lent, you are invited to join us for our weekly Lenten series. Each Wednesday from March 12 through April 9, we will meet in the Parish Hall at 5:30 pm for a simple meal together. That will be followed by a study series where we are looking at the Book of Psalms. Our usual Wednesday Holy Eucharist will then be at 7:00pm. Please join us, as we listen for how the ancient prayers of the Psalms invite us into conversation with them today.

MESSIAH MINISTRIES

- *Morning Prayer, Monday – Saturday, 7:00 a.m.*
- *Sunday, Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.*
- *Wednesday, Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m.*
- *Vestry Meeting, Second Monday of the month, 4:30 p.m.*

Birthdays:

3/4 Logan Muth
 3/12 Angela Hallmark
 3/17 Kathleen Lamb
 3/28 Stephanie Yost
 4/14 Connie Baker
 4/19 Clay Yost

Flowers:

No Flowers During Lent
 4/13 Palm Arrangement
 4/20 Kristi & Dickey Watson

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025, 10 a.m.; starting in the garden the weather permitting and processing the palms inside the church for Holy Eucharist.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025, 6 p.m.; Holy Eucharist, stripping of the altar, Night Watch.

Good Friday, April 18, 2025, 6 p.m.; the Liturgy of Good Friday, Communion from reserve Sacrament.

Easter Day: April 20, 2025, 10 a.m.;
Festal Eucharist.

Serving our Worship ----- The Church of the Messiah:

NOTE: WE WOULD PREFER TO FIND SUBSTITUTES. PLEASE DO NOT MANAGE YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT.

March 2: Acolytes: Bella Muth & William Taliaferro; Chalice Bearer/Reader: Cathy Roberts; Altar Guild: Connie Baker

March 5 – Ash Wednesday: Acolytes: Graham Hoover & Catherine Dunnivant; Chalice Bearer/Reader: Andy Hoover; Altar Guild: Connie Baker.

March 9 – Lent I: Acolytes: Calum Lavacot & Graham Hoover; Chalice Bearer/Reader: Mary Dubberley; Altar Guild: Catherine Dunnivant.

March 16 – Lent II: Acolytes: Calum Lavacot & William Taliaferro; Chalice Bearer/Reader: Andy Hoover; Altar Guild: Tabitha & Dan Lavacot.

March 23 – Lent III: Acolytes: Colton Muth & Graham Hoover; Chalice Bearer: John Hughes; Altar Guild: Marqueda Forrester & Corrie Taliaferro.

March 30 – Lent IV: Acolytes: Bella & Colton Muth; Chalice Bearer/Reader: Cynthia Low; Altar Guild: Samanth & Donny Muth.



April 6 – Lent V: Acolytes: Graham Hoover & William Taliaferro; Chalice Bearer/Reader: Mary Dubberley; Altar Guild: Catherine Dunnivant.

April 13 – Palm Sunday: Acolytes: Calum Lavacot & Graham Hoover; Chalice Bearer/Reader: John Hughes; Altar Guild: Connie Baker.

April 20 – Easter Sunday: Acolytes: All Available Acolytes; Chalice Bearer/Reader: Andy Hoover; Altar Guild: Tabitha & Dan Lavacot.

April 27: Acolytes: Catherine Dunnivant & William Taliaferro; Chalice Bearer/Reader: Cynthia Low; Altar Guild: Marqueda Forrester & Corrie Taliaferro.

