

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the  
**HEAVENLY REST**

God's Love. For All.

*Lay Reader*

EASTER • VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2 • ABILENE, TEXAS

## From The Rector



# Holy Week and the Morality of Time

David Romanik

Whenever I train lectors at Heavenly Rest, I ask a rhetorical question: why do we read these passages of Scripture aloud? Why don't we ask people to take a few minutes before the sermon to read the texts to themselves? Better yet, why don't we ask people to read the texts at home before they come to church on Sunday? Surely it would be a more efficient use of everyone's time. The answer to this question is twofold. In the first place, our faith is not an exclusively intellectual

enterprise. In Genesis 1, God speaks creation into existence: 'God said "Let there be..." and there was.' John's gospel begins with the evangelist telling us that "the Word was made flesh and lived among us." Christianity, in other words, is an embodied faith, and reading Scripture aloud is one of the ways we enact that embodiment.

The other reason we read Scripture aloud is because it takes time. (This has been particularly evident during Lent, as we have experienced those seemingly endless passages from John's gospel.) Whether we realize it or not, giving of our time is a moral act. When we experience anything that requires us to give of our time, whether it is a reading from Scripture, or a piece of music, or a film, we are surrendering some of our agency; we are implicitly announcing that we are not in control. These events, in the words of the theologian Rowan Williams, help us recover the "morality of time." They tell us "what we are and what we are not, creatures, not gods, creators only when we remember that we are not the Creator."



In many ways, Holy Week is about recovering the morality of time. At its heart, the story of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection is a story about a man who realizes that he is not in control and puts his whole trust in God. We cannot apprehend this reality simply by reading the story. Understanding Christ's faithful obedience requires us to enact and embody a similar faithfulness. It requires us to surrender control, to recognize that, despite all our efforts and assumptions, we are not the masters of the time that has been given to us. This is why Holy Week is a week. During Holy Week, Williams observes, the Church "takes us inexorably through a series of changing relations, shifting perspectives, that can't be rushed: it leads us through the passion and resurrection of Jesus, which is the center and the wellspring of what we are. We can't just do this with selected highlights, saving time; this is a contemplation, a feeding, that requires our flesh and blood, our patience, our passion. It requires that things are done to us, that we allow ourselves to be changed and enlarged."

Last year, a newer parishioner reflected on her experience of Holy Week. Coming from another tradition, she observed, "I spent much of my life feeling that Easter was a one-day shebang with the same message every year, almost like a story time." Holy Week, however, changed her understanding of what we proclaim on Easter. "Experiencing Holy Week, with Maundy Thursday and Footwashing, this act of service guided by the tenets of Jesus, followed by the altar clearing and cleaning, was unlike anything I've witnessed before...I attended the Easter Vigil on Saturday night: a can't miss in my humble opinion. All I can say is WOW! It was ceremonial and reverent and thought provoking. At the end of the service, as the lights came up and the resurrection was proclaimed, I felt like I had attended a true Easter service, not a story time." This parishioner was transformed by her experience of Holy Week. I suspect that part of the reason for this is that she took the time to contemplate, to experience the narrative from beginning to end, to surrender to the reality that God is the one in control.

I hope you will plan to join us at Heavenly Rest for as many Holy Week services as you can, not just so you can rehearse and remember the story of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, but so you can recover the morality of time and put your trust in God.



## Receiving God's Grace

### Ashley Powers

In Matthew's account of the resurrection Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary go to see Jesus at the tomb after the Sabbath. Suddenly the earth quakes, an angel descends from heaven and rolls back the stone that was sealing the tomb. The guards are scared to death. The angel invites the women to peek inside the tomb and see that Jesus has been raised, and then quickly go tell the other disciples. So they "left quickly with fear and great joy."

Jesus appears to the women and they immediately recognize him. The text says "they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him." Only after their encounter does Jesus tell them to go, this time without fear, and tell his brothers and sisters to go to Galilee, for that is where they will see him.

The season after Easter is always full: full of life, energy, busy schedules, and obligations. We are helping our children with their end-of-school activities, planning for summer camps, vacations, and parties. We are working, doing spring cleaning, volunteering, attending church, and doing yard work. The sun is out longer and life is staying up with it.

It happens at all times of year, but especially now, most of us are so willing and ready to jump up at the opportunity to help one another or check off another item from our to-do lists. We fill our time and run from one thing to the next, constantly giving of ourselves along the way. We give our time, our energy, our thoughts, and our attention.

Just like the women at the tomb, at the angel's charge they were ready to run from the tomb to go tell the other disciples. Ready to do what was asked of them, for their friends and family and whoever else they could help by telling the good news that Jesus was raised. This is a good quality to possess - the desire to serve and care for others. And yet, I suspect that Jesus knew they wouldn't be quite ready for that work until they had encountered him for themselves first. So he appeared to them. He gave them a reason to hit pause and experience his presence for themselves. And when they saw him, they came to him, knelt down before him to hold his feet, and they worshiped him. It wasn't for the benefit of someone else. It wasn't so they could gather up more information to give the disciples later. It was for their own benefit, to stop and encounter the risen Lord. They paused on their mission to give God's grace to others, and in this moment, just received it for themselves. They took a moment to encounter Christ for themselves and were blessed for it.

There is nothing expressively wrong with this springtime busyness. It is often the beautiful work we are doing in our lives for the benefit of those we love. But we are also in the season of the church where we are constantly being reminded that the risen Christ is appearing to his disciples, and to us. He shows up to give hope, to remind us why we are here, and give us a chance to pause - to experience a moment of peace where we can not concern ourselves with what is next, but take this moment to encounter and worship him for ourselves. I pray that this Easter season you will look up from the next thing you're running to do, and let the risen Lord appear to you. Pause. Breathe. Encounter him for yourself, and offer prayers of thanksgiving when he gives you all the time you need. This is where we are all reminded what any of this work is for, and we will leave these encounters with the energy to go and what it is we have been called to - to tell others what it is we have seen.

I pray we all encounter the risen Lord this season, and that we receive the grace of God which reminds us it is always worth taking the time to worship him and give thanks.

# The Treasure of Easter

Amanda Watson



I love to watch the youngest children at an Easter Egg Hunt. These tiny people come with great exuberance, wonder and expectation spread across their faces. Carrying a brightly colored Easter basket that is larger than they are, each is ready to find all the treasures waiting to be discovered.

The beautiful thing is that as soon as the little ones find a great treasure hiding amongst the grass and bushes, it becomes a treasure to be thoroughly explored at that very moment. They immediately sit at the very spot of discovery, and holding their treasure up, it becomes something to be admired and anticipated. It is something of great value just as it is.

Having inspected all the intricacies of this treasure, the child turns to finding a treasure within a treasure. They open this incredible gift to find an even more glorious treasure inside. Finding a magnificent piece of sweetness, the wrapper is ripped open and quickly dispatched to the ground. Then, with great delight this treasure becomes a mouth-watering, joyful experience.



After a moment of basking in the wonder of the sweetness, the child filled with more wonder and mystery, looks around to discover what great joy and satisfaction lies hidden under the vast expanse of grass and thorns.

Ah, the Easter Egg Hunt!

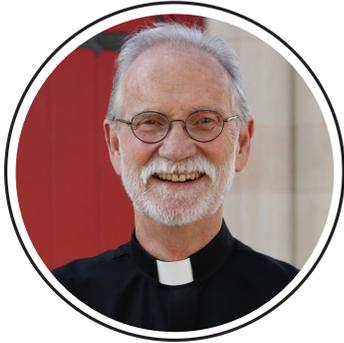
The Easter Egg Hunt is a beautiful metaphor for Easter Day. The closed tomb is opened as our savior has been raised from the dead. God has defeated death. Christ lives and welcomes us to life. We have followed the life of Jesus: a life of caring and healing, a life of love and respect of each other, a life that teaches us to live a life of love, knowing that in each of our missteps and bad decisions, we are loved and there is always is grace. We are welcomed into the body of Christ. We, too, welcome the treasure of Easter. The joy and hope mingles and tingles throughout our body and soul as sweet and wonderful as that small piece of candy found in a child's small plastic egg.

How wonderful are the treasures that we can find waiting within the thorns of life - waiting for us to spy, to sit and to open with great expectation. Waiting to fill our life with the wonderful sweetness of God's grace. As we sit in the grass looking across toward the horizon, we look and marvel at the unending amazing grace that surrounds us. But most of all, we are to lift up that treasure, so freely given by God, and to offer it to the next person sitting in the grass and thorns with us. Treasures are treasures only when they are shared, experienced and marveled at together.

The bells ring out and we say alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

# Expecting Easter

## Doug Thomas



there will come a time when my breath will cease  
 my heart will stop its beating and my limbs will move no more  
 my eyes will close in darkness and my ears in silence  
 my flesh will not feel the prick of pain nor the caress of love  
 i will not smell the fragrances of life nor taste its joys

when comes that time i shall entrust myself as i have long entrusted  
 to the One who can be trusted  
 who in His timeless time will recreate my body  
 breathe new breath into my lungs  
 restore the rhythm of my heart  
 re-animate my arms and legs  
 open my eyes and ears  
 and be a fragrance sweet to heal my soul  
 the source of joys unending

out of time I become timeless  
 tuned to the eternal One who is before and after time  
 the Alpha and Omega makes me whole

## Rogation Days

Rogation Days are observed on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday leading to the Feast of the Ascension. The word "Rogation" comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning "to ask." These days are set aside for the faithful to pray for God's mercy, seek protection from disasters, and request blessings for a fruitful harvest.

Rogation Days originated in Vienne, France in the fifth century. In England they were associated with the blessing of the fields at planting. The vicar "beat the bounds" of the parish, processing around the fields reciting psalms and the litany. In the United States they have been associated with rural life and with agriculture and fishing. And have widened their scope to include commerce and industry and the stewardship of creation.

At Heavenly Rest the congregation will gather in the courtyard for opening prayers and then proceed around the boundaries of the church blessing not only the parish landmarks, such as the fountain, Gerhart Hall, the playground, Hospitality House, but the streets, gardens and yards surrounding the church. The beating of the sticks was originally to scare off the evil spirits, today it is a reminder to all for our relationship and interdependency of all creation, creatures and plants, and for our call from God to the stewardship of all God's creation. It is to make a joyful noise in thanksgiving for all the God has given us and for God's presence with us through difficulties and disasters as well as those wonderful times of great joy!

The procession will conclude at the Red Doors on Sixth street reciting the Great Litany as we enter the church. Following the Eucharist, we will continue the celebration cookies, drinks and fellowship in Gerhart Hall.

Rogation Days will be celebrated Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 PM following dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome!



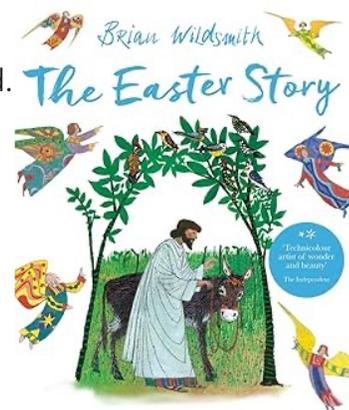
# Holy Week and Easter for Children and Families

Carol Ann Weston

Christmas, Holy Week, and Eastertide are at the heart of our Christian faith and worship but can be difficult for children to understand. The Passion, crucifixion, and resurrection are foundations of our faith yet just a few months

ago they were celebrating the Christ Child – God born on earth to live among us. To help families talk about these wonderful but complex events at home, the church gifts a book on Easter Day and Christmas Eve to each family with children.

When choosing books, several of the staff join to make careful, thoughtful choices. We seek books that can help children begin to understand difficult, emotional, and deep theological concepts as they begin to find their own story within God’s story. We look for books that tell the Biblical story in an age-appropriate manner, contain illustrations which are necessary for the visual learning of children, and may provoke awe and wonder through their beauty. We choose books that we hope will be a lasting blessing to your family.



We encourage families to read these books together and then to reflect and pray together. Spending time in thoughtful silence and then wondering about the story with open-ended questions such as what the best part could be, what the most important part might be, and where each person sees themselves in the story can provide each one the opportunity to relate to the story and to God. Sharing these and other Bible story books can help to connect your family’s Sunday worship with everyday life and create deeper relationships and lasting memories.

This year’s book, “The Easter Story”, written and illustrated by Brian Wildsmith, tells the story of the last days of Jesus’ life, the crucifixion, and the resurrection, as seen through the eyes of a small donkey. Look for me and other leaders on Easter Sunday to get this year’s Easter book- we will be looking for you!

## Easter Schedule for Children and Families

9:00 AM - Easter Brunch (Gerhart Hall)

10:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt (Gather in Courtyard with your basket)

10:15 AM - Unbury the Alleluia (Columbarium)

10:30 AM – Process Alleluia Banner into Nave for Festival Holy Eucharist

1:00 PM - Holy Eucharist in Swahili

3:00 PM - Easter Egg Hunt

## Family Vacation Bible School

### June 1-3, 6:30-8:30 PM

This year's theme is **All Are Welcome**. We will lead into the annual Children's Art and Literacy Festival (C.A.L.F.) the following week using one of the featured books, **Winnie-the-Pooh and the Party**, and **Jesus' Parable of the Great Banquet** as we explore how much God loves us and calls us to welcome all.

Our team is planning Bible stories, recreation, crafts, snacks, music, and more for the whole family to enjoy together. Last year, we had participants aged 2 through 83 years old!

Helpers Needed: As last year, we will have some children whose adults are unable to attend, so we will need additional adults to help shepherd "family groups" or to help by taking photos, serving snacks, etc. You may also sign up to donate needed items or funds.



Registration sign-ups for attendees and leaders are live on your Church Center app under "sign-ups" or go to <https://heavenlyrestabilene.churchcenter.com/registrations>.



Questions? Contact Carol Ann at [cweston@heavenlyrestabilene.org](mailto:cweston@heavenlyrestabilene.org) or Amanda Harbaugh at [astokes414@gmail.com](mailto:astokes414@gmail.com).

## Summer Camps for Children and Youth

The Diocese of NW Texas will have two summer camps again this year.  
This year's theme is **Pharaoh, Pharaoh Let my People Go!**

Camp Quarterman (Colorado): June 21-26 for those currently in 6-12th grade

Camp Quarterman Jr.(Ceta Glen near Happy, Texas): July 12-17 for those currently in grades 2-6

Registration is limited and closes on May 17th for both camps and scholarships are available. For more information, contact Mother Ashley or Carol Ann.

Register now at <https://nwtodiocese.org/What%20We%20Do/youth-ministry.html>



# Holy Week at Heavenly Rest

## March 29 - April 5

### The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, March 29

8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM - Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist (service begins in the Courtyard)

1:00 PM - Worship in Swahili

### Monday in Holy Week, March 30

8:30 AM - Morning Prayer (Chapel)

12:00 PM - Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday in Holy Week, March 31

8:30 AM - Morning Prayer (Chapel)

12:00 PM - Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday in Holy Week, April 1

8:30 AM - Morning Prayer (Chapel)

12:00 PM - Holy Eucharist

6:00 PM - Agape Supper (Gerhart Hall)

6:30 PM - Holy Week Pilgrimage for Children and Families (Nave)

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

8:30 AM - Morning Prayer (Chapel)

12:00 PM - Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar (Chapel)

7:00 PM - Holy Eucharist with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar

*The Nave will remain open for meditation and prayer until midnight.*

### Good Friday, April 3

8:30 AM - Liturgy of Good Friday with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

12:00 PM - Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday with Veneration of the Cross

5:00 PM - Stations of the Cross (Downtown Abilene - service begins at St. Paul United Methodist Church)

### Holy Saturday, April 4

8:30 AM - Holy Saturday Liturgy

8:00 PM - The Great Vigil of Easter (service begins in the Columbarium)

### Easter Day, April 5

8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist with Hymns

9:15 AM - Easter Brunch (Gerhart Hall)

10:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt (Playground and East Lawn)

10:30 AM - Festival Holy Eucharist with Flowering of the Cross

1:00 PM - Holy Eucharist in Swahili with Flowering of the Cross

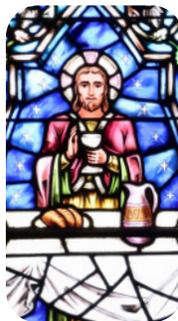
3:00 PM - Easter Egg Hunt (Playground and East Lawn)

*Unless otherwise noted, all Holy Week services will take place in the Nave.*

# The Triduum at Heavenly Rest

For much of its history, the Church has commemorated the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ with a series of dramatic worship services during the final days of Holy Week. These services take place during the three day stretch of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Known as the Triduum (or "Great Three Days"), these are the holiest days of the Church year and are an opportunity to reflect on and experience the drama of Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

On Thursday, April 2, Heavenly Rest will celebrate Maundy Thursday, the day when we recall Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper and the new commandment of love he gave to his disciples. We will offer a service of Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 12:00, which will include the stripping of the altar in that space. At 7:00, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in the Nave. The service will include the ceremony of footwashing, a symbol of the servanthood to which all disciples of Jesus are called. After the Eucharist, all adornments will be removed from the church as we remember the fact that Jesus was stripped of his garments on his journey to Calvary. The church will remain open until midnight for meditation and prayer.



On Friday, April 3, we will walk the way of the cross at 8:30 am and 12:00 pm with the Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday. This service is an opportunity not only to remember the crucifixion and death of our Lord, but also to offer solemn prayers for the Church and for the world. It is a somber and beautiful service. The noon service will feature chorales from Bach's St. John Passion, as well as the veneration of the cross. An ecumenical Stations of the Cross, a service that enacts and embodies Jesus' journey to Calvary, will be offered in downtown Abilene at 5:00. We will begin at St. Paul United Methodist Church and conclude at First Central Presbyterian Church.



On Saturday, April 4, there will be two services at Heavenly Rest. At 8:30 am, we will observe the Liturgy of Holy Saturday, a brief and powerful service that recalls the fact that Jesus' disciples rested on the Sabbath after his death.

As the sun sets at 8:00 that evening, we will gather for the Great Vigil of Easter, the most dramatic service of the Church year, the night when we celebrate the fact that Jesus passed over from death to life. We will begin in the Courtyard with a new fire that symbolizes God's triumph over the darkness. We will hear the Exsultet, an ancient hymn enjoining us to rejoice with all of creation for the victory of our mighty king. We will hear stories from scripture about God's saving action in history. We will renew our baptismal covenant. And we will proclaim the Resurrection. It is a powerful and empowering service, an opportunity to renew our trust in the God who raises the dead to life.



We hope that you will use the services during these Great Three Days as an opportunity to experience the drama, intensity, and hope of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the  
**HEAVENLY REST**

**Springtime  
Celebrations  
at Heavenly Rest**

**Missions Sunday  
April 19**

On this special Sunday, we will celebrate all persons involved in the off-campus missions of Heavenly Rest, i.e., St. John's Episcopal School, Thrift House, Bowie Angels, and Breakfast on Beech Street - those ways that Heavenly Rest is present and at work in the community.

**Graduate/Senior Sunday  
May 3**

We will take time to introduce and celebrate our high school seniors and those graduating from other institutions, presenting Bibles and awarding the Dan Abbott Scholarship.

**Appreciation Sunday  
May 17**

This is a special time to acknowledge worship leaders, leaders of children and youth, adult study leaders, outreach volunteers, altar guild, kitchen and office volunteers, acolytes, choristers, bell ringers, and all others who serve in the ministries of Heavenly Rest.

## The Organ at Heavenly Rest: Past, Present, and Future

*O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Unlike most other instruments, pipe organs are built with particular communities in mind. In the first place, they must conform to the architectural possibilities and physical limitations of a particular space. They must be designed to serve the liturgical and musical assumptions of a particular tradition. They must take into account the preferences and tastes of a particular congregation. As such, no two pipe organs are exactly alike. Each has a unique personality shaped by those who built it, those who play it, and those who listen to it on a regular basis.



The organ at Heavenly Rest was installed in the early 1960s by Aeolian-Skinner, one of the premier organ builders of the era. Our Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1416 was built in the early days of the organ renewal movement, also known as the neo-Baroque movement. The theory behind this movement was to build organs that were better suited to playing literature by Bach and other 17th-century masters of the organ. While this was a worthy goal, the instruments that were built during this era were not especially well-suited to playing music that was composed after Bach and his contemporaries had gone to glory. What we had at Heavenly Rest, in other words, was a specialized instrument designed to play music from a particular era of music history. As a result, organists at Heavenly Rest have created workarounds to make our organ more effectively play a broader range of the literature. Over the years, in fact, several efforts were made to update Heavenly Rest's organ, with varying degrees of success.

When the organ stopped functioning in December of 2018, it became apparent that we had been given an opportunity: to rebuild and renovate our organ so that it was better suited to the liturgical and musical life at Heavenly Rest. After a period of discussion and discernment, three priorities were identified: we wanted an instrument that was able to adequately support congregational singing, effectively accompany the choir, and perform a wide variety of organ literature. It was Thom Pavlechko who had a clear and exciting vision for what should be done to accomplish these goals. Eventually, we contracted with Kegg Pipe Organ Builders in Hartsville, Ohio, who, in consultation with Thom, proposed the addition of several new sounds, as well as adjustments to the layout of the instrument. (You can read more about these changes elsewhere in the Lay Reader.) After nearly two years, Charles Kegg and his team finished most of their work in February of this year, providing us with an instrument that is well suited to the way this community worships.



While this organ project began over seven years ago, one could make the argument that it has actually been in process since the early 1960s, as the personality of our instrument has been shaped by this community. Even as we celebrate this milestone in the history of our organ, we recognize that it will continue to be shaped by this community going forward. As we mark this exciting moment in the musical life of Heavenly Rest, we pray that our organ will continue to reflect who we are as the people of God, as we seek to perfect the praises offered by God's people here on earth.

## The Heavenly Rest Organ Rededication

Join us **Sunday, May 3** at 6:00 PM for dedicatory prayers, scriptures, Psalms, hymns, choir anthems and organ repertoire to celebrate and give thanks for the completion of this phase of the restoration and expansion of our Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ.

No pipe organ project is simple. Much work has been accomplished over the last two years. In March of 2024, Kegg Pipe Organ Company visited Heavenly Rest, studying the organ and making a proposal by the end of the month. More study was done, with the organ project design/drawing phase completed early in 2025. Construction of new parts in the shop began shortly thereafter. The new pipes, wind chests and organ

console were first to be built, with support structures and expression enclosures following. All the sections were assembled and completed in the shop so that installation would simply be reassembly. The team from Kegg traveled to Abilene in August 2025 to remove the organ console, pipes and parts that were to be replaced or rebuilt. That is when the organ was not playable, during which time we used our Rodger's digital electronic organ. The full installation began in November. However, due to emergency brain surgery of the Kegg Pipe Organ Company's owner, detailed tonal finishing was delayed until February. The organ has been brought back to the warmer sounds of the earlier period. The Choir Division pipes on the right side of the chancel are now under expression for much more effective balance with the choir accompaniments. They are also now open to the Chapel. And the larger new bass Pedal pipes, including one digital octave, can now be felt throughout the nave. The organ now has much more flexible voicing, complementing the Anglican tradition for choir accompaniment, congregational singing leadership and organ repertoire.

## Bach Chorales

### Thomas Pavlechko

*St. Matthew Passion on Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday & St. John Passion on Good Friday*



It was in the midst of playing organ with orchestra and chorus for a performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's "St. John Passion" that a liturgical inspiration came to me for Good Friday: including the singing of the Bach Passion Chorales with the reading of the Passion narrative from John's Gospel. While the full performance of Bach's Passion would not be possible by most church choirs and would not fit into a traditional Good Friday Service, the meaningful chorales would add musical responses to the actions in the Passion Reading.

Over the course of several months, working with two colleagues who were fluent in German, I created new English translations. Two more publishing colleagues with Augsburg-Fortress added their edits. While an accurate word-for-word translation of the original German was the ongoing intent, poetic metered lines and, in some cases, inspired interpretation influenced

the final results. The chorales are placed at the same points within the scripture as they are in Bach's full St. John Passion. Once completed, I began work on the chorales in the St. Matthew Passion. On Palm Sunday and Good Friday the choir and the congregation will be singing chorales from Bach's St. Matthew and St. John Passions.

## Chamber Music Concert Series



Join us **Sunday, April 19** at 6:00 PM as we welcome back to Heavenly Rest **Stacy Arnold**, Classical Guitarist.

Stacy Arnold is recognized for his artistry as a concert soloist, recording artist, and educator whose concerts have been described as "a variety of guitar music, stylistically pleasing in every way" and applauded for his innate musicianship, virtuosity, and beautiful tone. Mr. Arnold has toured throughout the United States at Universities, Colleges, Arts Organizations, and Classical Guitar Societies. Mr. Arnold's concerts are characterized by performances that represent the entire history of the guitar, presenting composers from the 16th century Renaissance to the modern day, with an emphasis on the music of Spain and Latin America.

On **Tuesday, May 5** at 7:30 PM, we welcome back to Heavenly Rest **Chorus Abilene**.

Join Serayah Peters and the BackBeat Chorus for an inspiring evening of music that reflects the beauty and complexity of life. This program explores themes of time, friendship, struggle, hope, and joy through a diverse selection of contemporary and choral works such as "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars, "Chandelier" by Sia, and "And So It Goes" by Billy Joel, alongside meaningful choral works like "Light in the Hallway" by Pentatonix, "The Gift" and "Joyful, Joyful" from Sister Act 2, celebrating the power of music to bring people together.





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The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*

**THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST TEXAS**

The Right Reverend J. Scott Mayer, *Bishop*

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The Reverend David Romanik, *Rector*

The Reverend Ashley Powers, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Amanda Watson, *Assistant Rector for Community Life*

The Reverend Karen Boyd, *Assisting Priest*

The Reverend Doug Thomas, *Priest in Residence*

The Reverend Dr. Russell Dickerson, *Deacon*

The Reverend Joe Biles, *Curate and Pastoral Assistant*

Bikole Mulanda, *Swahili Minister*

Thomas Pavlechko, *Organist and Director of Music*

Elizabeth Knauer, *Music Assistant, Choristers*

Laura Dickson, *Music Assistant, Children's Choir*

Carol Ann Weston, *Director of Family Ministries*

Jen Rogers, *Director of Communications and Stewardship*

Lydia Hurt, *Parish Manager*

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