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## FAITHWAY – Eastertide 2020

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### *The Church of the Holy Faith*

*welcomes all people into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*We believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Sacraments, and the Authority of Scripture.*

*We honor our Anglican heritage and praise God with Solemn liturgy, traditional Prayer Book worship, and music to exalt the spirit.*

*We strive to live as a community with compassion for one another and the world around us.*

*We worship together in peace to praise and thank God, to transcend division, and to celebrate the mystery of faith.*

### A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Faithful and Friends of Holy Faith,

Blessed Eastertide! I hope this Faithway finds you and yours safe and well. During this health emergency, it is all the more important to stay connected as a faith community. The God and Father of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ is still with us to sustain us and will see us through this crisis.

As you know, after consulting the Vestry and the Bishop, I decided to shut down the parish office and entire Holy Faith campus until further notice once Governor Lujan Grisham directed all non-essential businesses to close. While Holy Faith is a religious community and not a business, and "churches, synagogues, mosques or other places of worship" were originally exempt from the directive, I thought it was important that we model for our community the best practices in a situation like this, in order to protect ourselves and our loved ones, respect others in the community, and ensure that our health care system and other essential services were not overwhelmed. Thank you to all who have supported this decision and who



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*"...our Risen Lord Jesus Christ is still with us..."*

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have embraced new ways of doing Church and being the Church. This issue of the Faithway is focused on the changes we as Holy Faith have made in these difficult times and how Holy Faith parishioners have navigated these uncharted waters.

While we are not currently gathering in person for worship, each week a Sunday Eucharist is available for you to watch either live streamed at 10:00 am or at a later time. The link for the live streaming of the WorshipCast is included in each Thursday's parish email or by going to the WorshipCast and Sermons page under the Services tab on the Holy Faith website, where the video of the liturgy is also accessible for later viewing on Holy Faith's YouTube channel. Mother Pam and the Children's Chaplains are offering Children's Chapel each Sunday morning at 9:00 am via Zoom for Holy Faith's youngest parishioners and their families. Please contact Mother Pam if you would like to be included for these sessions.

In addition, Morning Prayer each weekday at 9:15 am and Evening Prayer each weekday at 4:30 pm are available via Zoom. If you would like to join your fellow parishioners in praying the Daily Offices, please contact Donna in the Parish Office and she will add you to the list of those receiving information about how to connect.

The Bible studies and the Spiritual Classics discussion continue via Zoom. If you would like to be part of the Evening Bible Study on Mondays at 5:30 pm, the Men's Bible Study on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm, or Women's Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:00 am (all currently studying St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians) and/or the Spiritual Classics discussion on Tuesdays at 10:00 am (currently on Chapter 12 of Fleming Rutledge's book The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ), please let me know.

Father Jim, with the help of ministry leaders, has reactivating a telephone tree so that Holy Faith parishioners can be in touch with one another to check on needs and general welfare. Some ministry groups have already started this, and we want to be sure to reach everyone. If you have not been contacted already, you should be contacted soon. If not, it may mean that we do not have current contact details for you, so please be in touch so we can be in touch with you. Also, Father Jim is coordinating through the parish's Faith Family ministry to meet the needs of parishioners who cannot get out to buy groceries, medicines, or other supplies. If you are in need of this service, or would like to volunteer to help, please be in touch with Father Jim.

Until we can come together physically, please pray for all those affected by the corona virus, for the repose of the souls who have died, and for a speedy end to this pandemic crisis.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Robin †  
Rector



Spring blooms in the Alexandra Ward  
Memorial Breezeway Garden.

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## “THE WORSHIPCAST” HOLY FAITH’S INTREPID RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC

STORY BY JAMES L. OVERTON, PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK CHILDERS AND KATHLENE RITCH

*“Worship God in spirit and truth and do it online.”* Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Easter 2020

Seminary never prepared the clergy of The Church of the Holy Faith for pandemic, nor did its parishioners expect to explore digital worship as an augmented reality of faith. But when COVID-19 began sweeping across New Mexico in March 2020 amid the Lenten call to prayer, fasting, reflection, repentance and the enrichment of spiritual life, our bishop, the rector, and the vestry of Holy Faith saw “quarantine” and “social distancing” as a call to action to sustain the very meaning of church. “It hardly was a surprise; anyone could see this was coming – it was just a matter of when,” said Fr. Jim Gordon, a former journalist. “I felt that Holy Faith would adapt but I admit I wasn’t sure how.”

But not having Holy Week and Easter was something Fr. Robin Dodge could not give up for Lent. “Nothing in my seminary training prepared me for this type of ministry in difficult times such as these,” Fr. Robin said later. “I wanted to strike a balance between being prudent and not inciting panic. I also realized that we had to be nimble as the situation around us changed almost daily.”

Learning how to be a comforting presence in the midst of a storm -- to remain calm and make decisions in the spirit of transparency and collegiality -- was buttressed by Bishop Michael Hunn’s insistence that shutting down church and its many embracing ministries was not on the table.

Ironically, Holy Faith’s clergy were brought into the loop of how to go forward when the bishop initiated a mid-week Zoom conference call. And like many Americans dealing with sheltering in place, adapting to virtual this and virtual that, “Zooming” was a communication tool that did not exactly roll off the tongue of an audience possibly challenged by Facebook, Twitter and other social media. “That conference call fell smack in the middle of the Lenten Wednesday Soup Supper discussion, but we broke away to hear what the bishop had to say, which was we were not to stop celebrating the sacraments but we were to explore news ways of doing church, of being the church,” Fr. Robin said.

The decision to suspend services was announced at a Taizé Eucharist on March 17, the last in-person worship service. The announcement prompted audible gasps and tears. A pastoral letter went out on March 19 to that effect, as well as canceling all gatherings on the Holy Faith campus. “If we could have had a month to prepare to ‘go live,’ it would have been great. We didn’t. So, the beginning was somewhat bumpy,” Fr. Jim said. “But thanks to Mark (Childers), with Fr. Robin’s support, it’s gotten better and better and better.”

“It’s definitely been a learning curve,” said Mark Childers, parish administrator and music director. After each service, Mark immediately reviewed the livestream and took notes on lessons learned to apply to the next service. “For the most part, parishioners have expressed an immense amount of gratitude for anything that we have done to continue to give them access to their church community,” Mark said in an interview. “I believe the product far outweighs the limited resources we’ve had for such an undertaking.”



Mark said his experience as a liturgist and as a musician helped him greatly, but he would be the first to tell you he’s neither a cameraman nor a livestreaming producer. “As I’ve said in jest to the Bishop and Fr. Robin (in my best ‘Bones’ voice from Star Trek), ‘Damn it, I’m an organist, not a videographer!’ But I was getting the sense that we better start acting sooner rather than later, and that I was going to contact our IT guy to meet with us and discuss what we needed to get our services up and running via livestream, in the event that we were directed to shut the Holy Faith campus down from public gatherings,” Mark said. “I just had a feeling that we needed to stay ahead of the game.”

Mark, Fr. Robin and the Wardens next met with Galen Duran, Holy Faith’s IT consultant. It was decided that all would make a full-court press to livestream a Eucharist the following Sunday, March 22. That included the purchase of all the



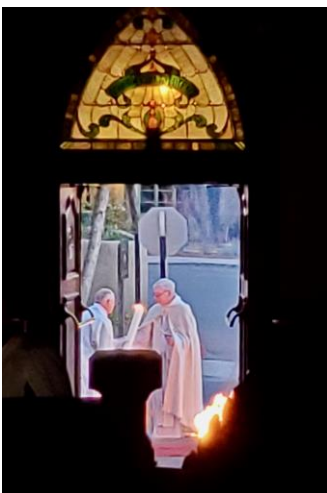
equipment needed to produce livestreaming television on nearly zero notice. "Because it is Holy Faith, we wanted to have the highest-quality production possible. We wanted to keep the liturgy the same to the extent possible. We wanted parishioners to feel connected to Holy Faith by providing them a worship experience as if they were sitting in the pew on a Sunday morning," Fr. Robin recalled.

As is custom, Bishop Michael Hunn showed up in person for Palm Sunday, although there was no Ecumenical Blessing of the Palms on the Santa Fe Plaza this year. "Everyone worked feverishly, and we procured the equipment, but on Saturday it was clear that we couldn't interface with YouTube in time to livestream on Sunday, so we would record the service and upload it to the website," Fr. Robin said. "Despite the heroic efforts of Donna Lukacs and Marty Buchsbaum, it took seven hours to upload!"

That's when production planning slammed into high gear. "I had to figure out how to continue our church services without an Altar Guild, acolytes, lectors, ushers, a choir, a congregation, and still make it accessible and meaningful through a camera lens," Mark said.

More importantly, the decision was made to keep the traditional schedule for Holy Week. "Because we were livestreaming services each day, we became nimble and tweaked certain aspects as we went," Fr. Robin said. "For instance, on Tuesday we used the Taizé chant but did not include the rite of healing. In place of Tenebrae on Wednesday, we celebrated the Eucharist. We did not include foot washing as part of Maundy Thursday, but we still captured the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose in the chapel and the Mass of the Pre-sanctified the following morning. We observed the Three Holy Hours on Good Friday but omitted the Veneration of the Cross that evening. We abbreviated the Easter Vigil," Fr. Robin said.

By Easter Sunday, it was showtime. The chancel became a soundstage. Mark moved rugs into the chancel and sanctuary to reduce echo and absorb the noise of footsteps. Two new powerful microphones that interfaced directly with the camera improved sound quality. Fr. Robin, Fr. Jim, Mother Pam Graham, Mark and solo soprano Kathlene Ritch were positioned to maintain at least six feet of social distancing. Then came the Easter service itself. With the nave empty of parishioners, solemnity and celebration intensified. "It was quiet, austere, removed," Kathlene said afterwards. "But for me, it took Holy Week and Easter to a very personal level. We sometimes lose the quietness and solemnity of how that first Easter must have been."



Every performer likes an audience and Kathlene was very aware that she was singing into the lens of a camera. "It was weird singing to an empty room and no congregation," she said. "But I knew I was singing to people through that lens. That really eased my mind. The songs and hymns were all pretty special. It wasn't even that sad. It was just a really different place to be." If anything, Kathlene missed sharing the experience with her fellow choir members. "I almost felt a little guilty that I got to be there, because the joy of singing means so much to so many people," she said. "In its own way, it was a unique and amazing experience. It reset my whole feeling about Holy Week and Easter. On a personal note, Kathlene said her solo performance was made the more special because her family in Texas was able to attend the service online. "I felt like I was singing to my family. It sounds a little selfish, but it was so special for me."

As the service progressed, Mother Pam Graham found her emotions building from the isolation. "It's Easter. Gather the people. Share the story. Break the bread. Alleluia!" she said upon reflection. "It was so sad we could not celebrate together. The tomb is empty. But I felt my heart was empty because we could not worship together. It was all beautiful – or as much as it could be at a distance – but there was that longing to have people worship with us."

In times of stress, people are drawn to religious services to find solace. On Easter, no one was left untouched by the pressure of worship during COVID-19. “This is a challenge for everybody – parishioners and the Holy Faith priests and staff,” said Fr. Jim. “But it’s also a time of opportunity. We have more time to dig deeper into our faith by reading Scripture. We have more time to dig deeper into our faith by reading commentary. We have more quiet time to pray. We have more time to experience and appreciate our close relationships. It may be a cliché to link challenge or crisis with opportunity but there’s truth to it. A lot of how well we get through this period has to do with how we view it.”

The Easter experience has led to a lineup of Zoom communication at Holy Faith. Clergy and the senior warden have also acquired individual Zoom accounts to stay connected with Holy Faith parishioners. Guy Gronquist is leading daily Morning and Evening Prayer via Zoom. Mother Pam has conducted Children’s Chapel via Zoom on Sundays at 9:00 am. Fr. Jim has held a Men’s Lunch discussion by Zoom. Fr. Robin has resumed the Evening, Men’s, and Women’s Bible Studies, and the Spiritual Classics discussion all by Zoom. Fr Jim, with the help of ministry leaders, has resurrected a phone tree to keep parishioners connected and to meet specific needs of parishioners through the Faith Family ministry. As coronavirus numbers continue to climb, churches across the country have taken their services online in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting gatherings.

With no discernible end in sight, attending church via Facebook or YouTube in a digital ministry may be with all of us for a while. That reality was addressed by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry during an Easter weekend interview with Joy Reid on MSNBC. “In pandemic, in this moment, to love your neighbor is to stay home and take care of yourself,” he told the interviewer. “Like it says in the parable of the good Samaritan, ‘go and do likewise’ – worship online. “Worship God in spirit and truth and do it online,” he concluded. “We stay apart today so we can be together tomorrow.”



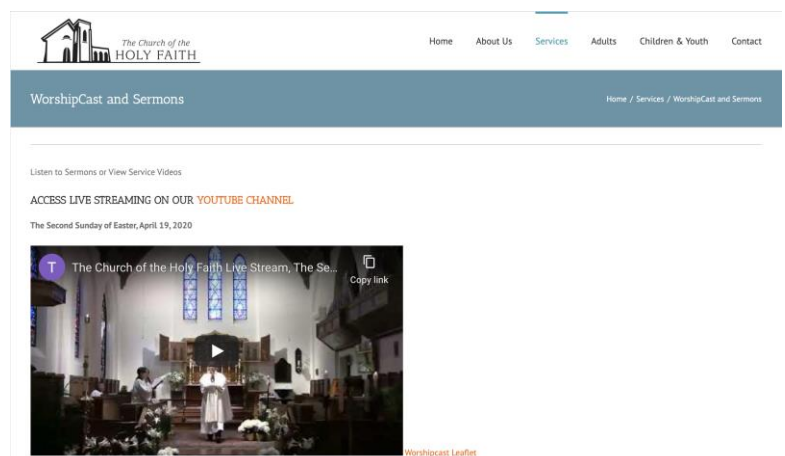
## A NEW EXPERIENCE OF CONECTIVITY FOR ALL OF US

STORY BY JAMES VAUGHAN AND PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES OVERTON

The Church of the Holy Faith is proving to be an adaptable congregation as it responds to the Covid-19 virus and the Governor’s mandatory stay-at-home order with worship services, classes and meetings via YouTube and Zoom.

We’re still going to church on Sundays, said Chris Bynum, whose family now watches Holy Eucharist live-streamed on a big-screen TV at their home. “We stand and kneel at the appropriate times just like if we were worshipping in the church,” she said. When asked how they prepare to watch the service, Bynum said they get up and get dressed for church, just like always. “We told Katia and Alex, we’re going to church on Sunday, so get up, shower and get dressed — no pajamas,” she said. “We don’t wear pajamas to church.”

Camille Barnett is watching the live streaming of services but prefers to listen to the audio version of the sermon. “The church seems so empty with only four or five persons participating — it’s just not the same,” Barnett said. “But I’m glad it’s available, and expect it’s going to be the way we worship for a while. Live-streaming worship services



and other on-line offerings will help keep us together," she said, "and our clergy and Vestry are to be commended for making these offerings available to us."

Wes Lackey, a retired Presbyterian minister, wears his collar when watching Holy Faith services online and he and his wife, Jan, share Communion following the service. He empathizes with Holy Faith clergy as they seek to connect with members during this time. "The word liturgy means the work of the laity or of the people," he said. "When the people are absent, clergy, who are the prompters feeding the lines, are doing so without response. Even though the people at home are responding, they are not seen or heard."

Gary Moran is watching every week and has been impressed with the improved quality of the telecast. "The sound is much better than in the beginning," he said. "The music on April 19 was the best yet. We don't sing along at home and we don't kneel, but I bow my head for the prayers just like we do in the church," Moran said.

Bill Baker said he and Martha are watching two services on Sundays — Holy Faith's and the service of their former church in Plano, Texas. Neither church streamed services before the stay-at-home order. "We watch on our laptop computer and sit together at our dining room table," Baker said. "I've got a shirt, slacks and shoes on," he laughed. "Martha looks better than me."

Most Holy Faith at-home worshipers aren't singing the hymns but they are reciting the prayers and responses. But almost everybody commented on how much they appreciate the music and that it wouldn't be a Holy Faith worship experience without music.



Aside from learning how to access church services on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/channel/UC9JPGSqeWs848DFYWMIPy9A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9JPGSqeWs848DFYWMIPy9A)) perhaps the skill most developed in the age of Covid-19 is "zooming," which refers to participating in a meeting or discussion using the Zoom video communications tool. Holy Faith is using Zoom to offer Bible studies, conduct committee meetings (the Communications Committee was captured last week at their Zoom meeting) — even to resume the monthly Men of Holy Faith luncheon. And while the church's conferencing tool enables members to participate from their homes in Santa Fe, it also provides a means of connecting with members who are not full-time residents of the City Different.

Hank Coleman, a part-time Santa Fean, joined the April Men's luncheon from his home in Houston and he's participating in the Spiritual Classics class weekly discussion. "If it weren't for the stay-at-home order, I would have missed these sessions," he said.

Marty Buchsbaum noted that weekday Morning and Evening Prayer are offered via Zoom with 16 to 20 participants per service. "My sister in Houston has joined us in Evening Prayer for the past week or so," he said. "Other than meeting at funerals, it is the first time we have been able to worship together in about 50 years!"

Barnett, who helped found Holy Faith's grief ministry said there is a lot of sadness and loss in our congregation — and beyond our congregation — and that that needs to be addressed. "We are experiencing a loss of community," she said. "It's good that we are relatively well off and we're in a beautiful place. But we're still having to deal with the loss of our Holy Faith community. Everyone has lost their normal way of living, and many are dealing with sickness, worry and isolation from family and friends. We as a church can minister to this grief."



## CREATING HOLY FAITH'S "SANCTUARY SOUNDSTAGE"

STORY BY JANET SANDERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK CHILDERS

Familiar: home and family; New Mexico's springtime beauty; the rituals of our Anglo-Catholic faith. Unfamiliar: isolating from work, play, school and recreation; uncertainty of if/when/how "normal" might return; social distance creating an intense need for yet preventing our communal worship. Holy Faith's clergy and staff personally face the challenges posed by the conflict of familiar/unfamiliar but also must work to overcome them for us, the congregation, with creative approaches to our shared services and sacraments. These "backstage" details from Mark Childers describe highlights of those efforts which enabled us to finish Lent and experience Holy Week with special reverence and humbleness, while balancing the text of our liturgies with the reality of a city virtually shut down.

**Weds. 3/11.** We don't know it's the last Lenten soup supper and choir rehearsal until after Bishop Hunn's evening Zoom conference with diocesan clergy asking for thoughts and prayers on how to "continue to be church together, while apart."

**Thurs. 3/12.** Planning begins. The challenge: "To make the sensory aspects of all our liturgies as meaningful through the camera lens as they are in person, in the event that we have to suspend all public gatherings." With input from Holy Faith's IT guru Galen Duran, a plan for basic video transmission is outlined.

**Mon., 3/16.** Mark, Fr. Robin, Sr. and Jr. Wardens meet with Galen about technical requirements for live-streaming. Galen helps research the proper equipment needed while Donna searches "how to live-stream on YouTube" and Mark secures licensing to ensure compliance with copyright laws for publishing and live-streaming hymns, anthems, service music, etc.

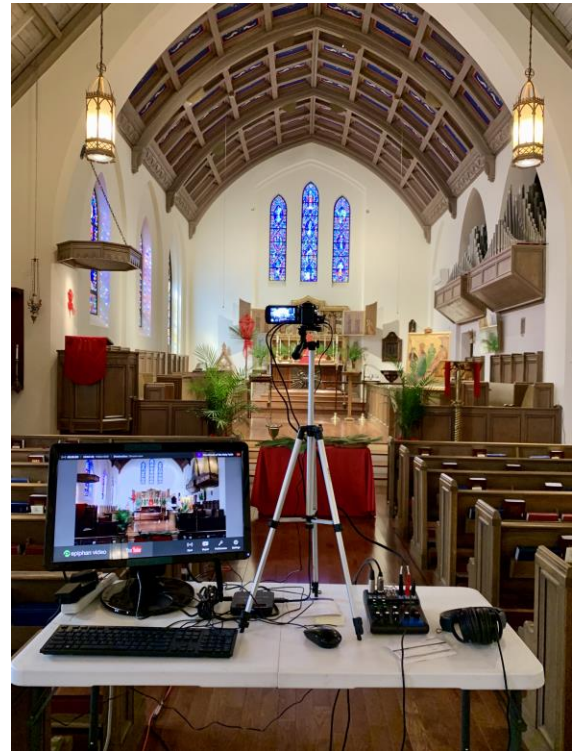
**Tues.- Sat. 3/17-21.** A new reality begins to set in as the Bishop strongly recommends closure; needed A/V equipment is ordered. By Friday when the last piece arrives its clear Sunday's service must go on without the usual support of Altar Guild, crucifer, torch bearers, thurifer, lectors, ushers, choir, etc. Mark and clergy go through the liturgy "storyboarding" what must happen, how and where it can happen with only 10 people in the chancel, and how to frame it for sight and sound. In congregant Eleanor Ortiz's words, "Mark, it's like you're remodeling an airplane while it's flying!" Mark "walks it out" in the chancel, finding camera constraints that dictate foregoing the pulpit for an ambo (free-standing lectern) outside the altar rail flanked by two torches to "make it liturgical and exude the warmth of the service."

**3/22 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent.** READY, SET, GO! No, stop!! WHAT? Planned live-stream is impossible due to unprecedented traffic on YouTube so the camera is switched to "record;" Marty Buchsbaum later labors tirelessly through the afternoon and early evening to upload the service to HF's website; it is a huge file and takes patience and perseverance on Marty's part to get it done.

**After each videoed service** Mark reviews the tape and feedback received to tweak audio, video and sanctuary "set" to improve our experience. An early change is delivery and set up, from Candyman Strings and Things, of two ambient mics to interface directly to the video camera instead of relying on the camera's mic to pick up voices amplified by our usual sound system. This improves spoken word sound quality and avoids much of the echo.

**4/29, 5<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent.** Camera icons appear on the live stream. Mark and cameraman Ken Duran google, "how to get rid of icons appearing on live stream." Camera settings are adjusted and the crisis is averted.

**The week leading up to Palm Sunday, 4/5.** New challenges! 1) Local florists are closed due to shelter in place order. Our local vendor Paynes Nurseries is concerned as churches are cancelling orders, but Holy Faith stands by its commitment and agrees to receive all floral and palm orders. Flower Guild chair Shelby Green dons protective mask and gloves to create arrangements for Palm Sunday and Easter. Mark finds two potted Majestic Palms at Agua Fria nursery just before the Governor orders non-essential business shutdowns. 2) Only five can be present for the service, one being the Bishop who -- given his Diocesan-wide travels -- models social distancing and doesn't touch anything anyone else will touch. He



permits modifications to some usual liturgical practices: the host is Consecrated on individual patens placed on the four corners of the altar and, at the direction of the Bishop, Thurifer Ken Duran censens the altar. 3) To help us experience the censuring, Mark directs Ken to “smoke it up!” Thus, Ken and energetic clergy produce clouds of visible incense to rise on this Palm Sunday, at the Great Vigil of Easter, and on Easter Day. 4) Instead of the traditional Palm Sunday Liturgy beginning in front of the church or on the Santa Fe Plaza, Mark stages The Liturgy of the Palms in the foreground of the scene and has Kathlene Ritch chant an ancient Gallican setting of Psalm 118, “Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,” as the altar party moves through the chancel to the altar. 4) Without Holy Faith’s usual “cast of 1000s,” the Passion Narrative is read only by Fr. Robin and Bishop Hunn, with Mark and Kathlene as the “crucify him!” crowd. The Bishop is restrained from his usual preaching dynamism to keep him within range of the ambo mic. 5) The beautiful icon of Pilate’s Judgement is placed in the Quire – the area where the choir usually sits.

**Holy Week.** Palm Sunday’s tape reveals a serious echo problem not apparent with a nave filled with worshippers, choir, and usual contingent of acolytes and clergy. To help dampen the echo, Mark and Ken find a Kinsolving Room oriental rug that fits the chancel perfectly and wrestle it into place, along with the chapel’s smaller oriental rug to hush creaks at the base of the altar steps. Communion kneelers, placed at either end of the altar rail and in the choir’s back pews, finish the audio tweaking.

**Monday in Holy Week.** Our Rite I Eucharist, with earlier modifications, goes well.

**Tuesday in Holy Week.** As our typical Taizé service with its prayer, silent meditations, candle- lighting, anointing and laying on of hands -- is “touching” in all ways, Rite I is used with Taizé chants to better include those worshipping via live-stream.

**Wednesday in Holy Week.** Tenebrae, celebrated with dusk and shadows embracing the congregation, does not translate well through the camera lens so the Rite 1 service is used again.

**Maundy Thursday.** Our typical service has “lots of moving parts.” Fr. Robin suggests a lectionary text which was used before the prominence of the foot washing ritual, a text emphasizing the institution of Holy Eucharist at Christ’s Last Supper. The service and its music are built around that theme.



**All-night Vigil.** The chapel becomes the Garden of Repose and readings are prepared so social- distancing and at-home congregants can watch with Our Lord. Staging and movement of elements including the monstrance, reserve Sacrament, bells and incense are carried out by the limited number of participants.

**Mass of the Presanctified.** A simple Good Friday service is planned and carried out, to consume the remaining reserve Sacrament.

**Good Friday – The Seven Last Words from the Cross.** Lots of “staging” issues. The camera is repositioned as if the viewer is in the fifth pew row and thus can see simultaneously the Cross and the pulpit. The service combines both the Seven Last Words and a sense of the Veneration of the Cross. Mark had tried since Tuesday to locate a second camera, a switcher and 150’ cord to capture the lighting of the new fire at the beginning of the Easter Vigil. As this service ended, Santa Fe Audio Visual texted; the equipment was coming, just in time.

**The Great Vigil of Easter.** A second camera placed outside the church captures the lighting and blessing of the “new fire” used to light the new Paschal Candle. Fr. Jim as Deacon of the Mass bears the new candle, leading the small procession into the church. As he enters, our view switches to the main camera so we now feel we are sitting in the nave. The Paschal Candle stops at three points as the Deacon chants “the light of Christ” while we reply “thanks be to God.” After the Paschal Candle is placed in the candle stand and censed, tenor Andre Garcia- Nuthmann chants the Exsultet, promising, “May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning – he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.” Placement for the five chancel participants is marked with blue painters’ tape so all aspects of the service might be caught on camera. Good audio is ensured with an ambient mic hidden behind the Paschal Candle and another at the main Lectern. The first half of this service concludes with chanting the Litany of the Saints. While the second half would normally continue with the first Eucharist of Easter, we instead are invited to tune in the following morning, Easter Day.



**Easter Day.** The camera's framing is moved slightly left of center so we can see both ambo and altar without a view obstructed by the Paschal Candle in the foreground. A hallway prie-dieu enables acolyte Janet McCroskey to participate in the service from "offstage," including ringing the sanctus bell, without violating the "five in the sanctuary" rule. With the Reredos open once again and the altar set and adorned with arrangements of lilies, hydrangeas, and palms, the First Eucharist of Easter is celebrated. The Blessed Sacrament once again resides in the Aumbry and the Sanctuary Lamp -- the light "ever burning" -- is lit from the Paschal Candle. But wait! Was the Paschal Candle left burning all night? No. Before the Paschal Candle was extinguished on Saturday night, the flame was transferred to a temporary Sanctuary candle and held in reserve until Sunday morning when it was transferred back to the Paschal Candle. Indeed, the flame lit at the Great Vigil of Easter yet burns.



Holding true to the three foundations of our Episcopal faith -- Scripture, Tradition and Reason -- and inspired by the Holy Spirit, Holy Faith's clergy, staff and congregation are using creative approaches and technologies to experience, share and give thanks for God's enduring love amidst unfamiliar challenges.

## THE WALK THAT DID NOT HAPPEN... PILGRIMAGE TO CHIMAYÓ: ANOTHER VICTIM OF COVID-19

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES L. OVERTON



For decades, members of Holy Faith have answered the Lenten call of pilgrimage to El Santuario de Chimayó as a key spiritual element of Holy Week. This year, COVID-19 said "NO." The novel coronavirus turned lives upside down, shuttered businesses and schools, and temporarily ended in-person worship and the communion of fellowship.

"I think some within the congregation have been making the pilgrimage for about as long as I can remember," said Marty Buchsbaum, a cradle parishioner at Holy Faith. Buchsbaum also spent years with the Tesuque Volunteer Fire Department, assisting the estimated 30,000 pilgrims making their way along State Road 503 to the ancient village in Northern New Mexico. He remembers seeing Holy Fathers along the way. "It may have been only a

handful, and they almost always joined the Maundy Thursday evening pilgrims. I clearly remember seeing and greeting members of the congregation as we (Tesuque FD) were out helping to protect them," he said.

The Santuario is considered by some to be one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the United States, drawing some 300,000 visitors a year. During Holy Week, it draws pilgrims from all over New Mexico. Some walk more than 100 miles carrying wooden crosses -- often left in spontaneous shrines on a chain-link fence -- or treading on cactus needles in their shoes to demonstrate penitence or devotion. Located between Santa Fe and Taos, the Santuario was founded in 1816 by Bernardo Abeyta and other residents of the then-separate village of El Portero. It was purchased by the Spanish Colonial Arts Society in 1929 and donated to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Today, it is considered a prime example of Spanish Colonial architecture with its thick adobe walls, two bell towers and six-foot crucifix. Chimayó is the name of a nearby hill believed by Native Americans to have sacred healing powers within its soil.

Today, pilgrims and visitors are drawn by the powers of the "tierra bendita" or "holy dirt" believed by many to have miraculous healing powers. The dirt is found in a small hole in a precept off the main altar. While myth is that the dirt is

from a never-ending supply, Chimayó priests have clean fill dirt trucked in from the surrounding hills to routinely replenish the supply in the hole, where it is consecrated. Belief in the curative powers of the dirt is purely faith based.

“For years, (Holy Faith) pilgrims making the walk to Chimayó would start from Pojoaque. It was later moved to the parking lot at the church in Nambe. Back then, pilgrims from Holy Faith were fewer than half a dozen. By 2019, the number swelled to some 40 people of all ages,” said Eleanor Ortiz, a member of the Altar Guild who’s been making the walk since coming to Santa Fe as a newly minted schoolteacher in 1966.

From Pojoaque, the faithful walked 11 miles to the Santuario. The move to Nambe shortened the pilgrimage to eight miles. “In those days the handful of faithful would sit off to the side of the Santuario and do communion,” she said. “Then we would drive back to Santa Fe for a large Lenten New Mexican family-sized meal of salmon croquettes, macaroni with tomatoes and cheese, and calites (spinach, beans and crushed red chile.)” Dessert would be Torrejas (a sweet bread pudding) and Natillas (a creamy Spanish custard).



Upon joining Holy Faith in 2008, Eleanor made her first walk with late parishioner Janet Kaye, who had done the walk for years. “The funny thing is that Janet would take a bottle of whiskey – for emergencies,” she said. For years, individual members of Holy Faith joined the devout from Santa Fe and elsewhere to do the walk, usually on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Many parishioners credit the late rector, Fr. Kenneth J. Semon, with making the walk an organized observance for the parish with enthusiastic support from the Rev. James Brzezinski, an associate rector. Fr. Ken added the 14 stations of the cross as part of the pilgrimage.





In recent years, Eleanor and Janet McCroskey have traveled ahead of walkers carrying water, snacks and the entire setup for Communion, which is held in a quiet corner of the parking lot below the Santuario. Parishioner Ray Wallace started doing the walk about a dozen years ago from Pojoaque on Good Friday. In a recent conversation, he lamented the cancellation of the pilgrimage to Chimayó. "I've done it a goodly number of times," Ray said. "It's been a part of my Easter observance for a lot of years, and I did not feel as spiritually engaged this Holy Week because I couldn't do it."

Many Holy Faith parishioners share Ray's hope that they will once again be able to walk together in faith along the road to Chimayó.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONQUERS QUARANTINE

STORY BY LORA MORTON AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK CHILDERS

The Thursday morning Women's Bible Study has been meeting every week for over 25 years. Normally, every seat around the table in the Campbell Room has someone in it, as do the extra chairs against the walls. We're there as students of Scripture but also as friends who care about and support each other. However, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, Father Robin let us know that because of Covid-19, all classes would be canceled for the foreseeable future. It was a blessing of sorts that we had just finished First Corinthians chapter 13, all about love.

Okay, we would follow protocol. But we weren't about to let a little old pandemic keep us apart.

We soon received an email from Molly Lott, our de facto organizer, suggesting that we start a group email update, describing what we're doing during quarantine. Some women circulated poetry, some sent cartoons or music, and eventually we simply looked forward to a daily spiritual passage from Terese Fayden, such as John 1:5, "And the light shineth in the darkness."

This evolved into a suggestion from Molly, "Let's try Zoom" and see how everyone is doing. What on earth is Zoom? Those of us who didn't know soon found out. Molly was learning as she went along too, and on March 25, she emailed us that Penni Chambers had helped her set up a link to our first meeting, and if we clicked on it tomorrow, we'd see what happens.

About six women managed to join the group the next morning, but two of us weren't entirely successful. I, for one, could see the women but couldn't hear or speak to them. Undeterred, Molly would try to gather us the following Thursday, for 30 minutes of the Word and 30 of catching up with each other. But it turned out that Father Robin wanted to lead the discussion and asked that we wait until after Easter week when he could join us. So as Molly suggested, for April second "We'll just chat and get better at Zooming."

In the meantime, some of us had other meetings via Zoom and grew more adept at using it. Some of us learned that our computer monitors don't have cameras or microphones so





we'd need to use another device, such as an iPad. Some of us learned how to add different background images so that it looked as if we were in San Francisco or Hawaii. And some of us learned we could participate in a meeting but be invisible (say, if we were still in our pajamas).

Now, I don't mean to underestimate the women in Bible study in any way, but the average age of the group is 39 and then some (and a lot some). Our technological skills are varied and we didn't grow up with computers. So, it felt a bit like an Easter miracle that on Thursday, April 16, more than 20 women joined Father Robin and Thérèse to Zoom chapter 14 of Corinthians. He told us he hadn't had "this many squares" (a reference to the way participants on Zoom calls appear on a computer or iPad screen) with the other Bible studies that preceded us. We raised our hand if we wanted to comment which meant that we didn't have the usual energetic, free-flowing discussion we're used to, but even so, we tackled prophecy, praying in tongues, prayer language, and St. Paul's ever-exasperating attitude toward women.

And how fitting that the overall message we received from Paul was the importance of building up and strengthening the community. Alleluia. Amen.

## CONNECTING TO HOLY FAITH SERVICES ON LINE

WITH THANKS TO JAMES L. OVERTON

Some people are still having trouble navigating to the correct location to view the service either live or afterward. There are two ways to do so:

- 2) Go to Holy Faith's website, <https://holyfaithchurchsf.org/>, and click on the link that says, "Click to view our most recent Eucharist on our WorshipCast and Sermons page." From there, click on "ACCESS LIVE STREAMING ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL. That will take you to YouTube and you'll see several services offered. For the most recent, click on the one at the far left.

2) On an E-Blast, click on the blue HERE link, which will take you to a site that says, "Video unavailable" but offers a link, Watch this video on YouTube. Click on that link will take you to the most recent WorshipCast.

## A QUICK GUIDE TO ZOOM

INFORMATION COURTESY OF REBECCA JENSEN AND THE SANTA FE OPERA

### How do I join a Zoom meeting?

You will receive an email with the meeting time and meeting link from the host of the meeting. There are also phone numbers if you are joining by phone. It is preferable to join by using the invitation link as Zoom is experiencing a great deal of phone calls at this time.

You can join a meeting by clicking the meeting link or going to [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) and entering in the meeting ID. You will not be connected to meeting until the host has opened the meeting. If you are new to Zoom, click on the link at least 5 or 10 minutes prior to your meeting and Zoom will walk you through the steps to download the Zoom client for your computer, tablet, or phone. You will also be able to test your speaker and microphone prior to the Zoom meeting. [Learn more about joining a meeting.](#)

### How do I join computer/device audio?

On most devices, you can join computer/device audio by clicking Join Audio, Join with Computer Audio, or Audio to access the audio settings. [Learn more about connecting your audio.](#)

### Do I have to have a webcam to join on Zoom?

While you are not required to have a webcam to join a Zoom Meeting or Webinar, you will not be able to transmit video of yourself. You will continue to be able to listen and speak during the meeting, and view the webcam video of other participants.

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For more information, please visit our new website at [www.holyfaithchurchsf.org](http://www.holyfaithchurchsf.org).

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Faithway – Eastertide 2020